Sainsbury's results

Execution goes ahead Philippines staged first execution for 23 years Foreign P17 HOME 2-12, FOREIGN 13-17, BUSINESS 18-21, SPORT 22-32, CRYPTIC CROSSWORD 32, WEATHER 2

Supermarket chain revealed poor sales over Christmas Business P19 Wenger on England

The Arsenal manager on that England job Sport P32

football's heir apparent

Japan braces itself for the second coming of the sarin killers Features P9 The week in review

The cult of Aum

Our critical round-up of the arts week Arts P13



TODAY'S TELEVISION

THE INDEPEND

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Sex between teachers and pupils can be 'educative' - schools chief

BY JUDITH JUDD AND BEN RUSSELL

TEACHERS SHOULD not automatically be sacked for having relationships with sixth-formers, Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, has told student teachers.

The "messes" involved in such relationships can be "educative", he said during a question-and-answer session after a lecture at Exeter University.

His remarks, which come as legislation making it a criminal offence for teachers to have sexual relationships with 16and 17-year-olds is before Parliament, provoked controversy among MPs, teachers and

In reply to a question whether teachers who had reconships with pupils had any ace in the education system, Mr Woodhead said that the law barring sexual relations with those under 16 was clear, and "as adults or relative adults we have a responsibility to those who are younger than us and therefore it isn't a good idea at

"But I don't think necessarily that a teacher should be automatically drummed out of the profession. I think human beings can get themselves into es can sometimes be experiential and educative on both sides."

Under the Sexual Offeoces (Amendment) Bill passing through the Commons, teachers face up to two years in jail if they have sex or "any sexual activity" with pupils under 18

at their school. Government guidelines alandy warn that teachers who have an "inappropriate" relationship with a pupil are "most likely" to be banned from work-



Chris Woodhead: 'Human beings can get into messes and I think those messes can sometimes be experiential and educative on both sides'

ing in schools, even if the pupil is over the age of consect.

Nearly 200 student teachers and academics attended the lecture on education 10 days ago. Mr Woodhead said yesterday that the exchange had to be seen in context. "I don't think it is the job of a chief inspector to

I was asked a question oo some- new legislation." thing completely different from the topic of the lecture and I the Conservative Christian Feldidn't think I could duck it. In lowship and MP for Devon South most circumstances I think a

to BMW. The company had

been seeking between £200m

However, in what may prove

an ominous sign for the plant,

BMW has yet to put in a formal

application for aid, suggesting

it may have already decided not

to go ahead with the new model

Mr Pischetsrieder an-

nounced in December that

BMW had agreed a new pro-

ductivity deal with unions in-

volving 2,500 job cuts and

efficiency savings of £150m a

year. In return, BMW agreed to

invest £400m to build a new

Mini at Longbridge and con-

firmed it was the preferred site for a new car, code-named

the R35, to replace the Rover

Byers pledges support

Longbridge.

bridge," he said.

in the UK.

pontificate about these things. have any problems with the

Gary Streeter, chairman of West, said that Mr Woodhead's teacher who has a relationship comments would set alarm bells with a pupil should be barred ringing: "Such relationships from the profession. I would not have to be seen as a disciplinary

offence ... although teenagers coming from a chief inspector think they are grown up, they are as extraordinary. Parents com-at a very impressionable age and mit their children to the care of there is a risk of abuse."

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association

a school. They expect the school to respect that trust." Joe Ashton, the Labour MP

of Head Teachers, which op- for Bassetlaw, who persuaded poses the Bill said "Most heads the Government to insert a would regard these remarks measure on the issue into the

majority," Mr Ashton said. Mr Woodhead has become the focus of teachers' anger for his attacks on progressive teaching methods and his suggestioo that 15,000 bad teachers should be sacked. More recently, he argued that national tests were unreliable and that schools were cheating

to boost their results. Teachers reacted angrily to his comments last night, but the UK's biggest parents' group was more supportive.

Patrick Tobin, headmaster of Stewart's Melville College, Edinburgh, and former chairman of the Headmasters and Mistresses Conference, said: "In a professional relationship you are answerable for your actions. There has to be a professional ethic whereby teachers or doctors or any self-regarding professioo – know that if they become involved in an intimate relationship with somebody with whom they have a trust relationship they are endangering their professional status."

But Margaret Morrissey, of the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations, said: "I think parents would be concerned if an older man was involved who might be divorced or have a family. But the majority would have no broblem with a man who is, say only four years older who meets socially with a sixth-former outside school."

Ian Waldie/Reuters Professor Ted Wragg, of Exeter University's departlegislation, said he had received ment of education, said: "We lay a letter from a woman of 45 who down the law to students... had had a relationship with ber making it clear that if they were so foolish as to have any music teacher at 16 and felt kind of relationship with a pupil "I think somebody should they would be kicked off the send Mr Woodhead a copy of course. If they were in the teaching profession, they would the Hansard from when this was debated in Parliament and be kicked out of the profession."

Rover in limbo after Jordan prays as its **BMW** sacks bosses king returns to die

THE FATE of Rover's giant **Business Editor** Longbridge car plant in Birmingham was thrown into confusioo last night as the two top executives at its parent company the German car-maker BMW were sensationally dismissed from the board.

Mer a day of high drama suspense, BMWs chairman, Bernd Pischetsrieder, the greatest supporter of keeping Longbridge open, and his higgest opponent, the deputy chairman. Wolfgang Reitzle. were both removed from the company. Mr Pischetsrieder's successor as chairman is to be Joachim Milberg, according to British union officials.

It was not immediately apparent whether the dramatic news signified a reprieve for the threatened Longbridge plant and its 15,000 workforce, or whether the new BMW management would proceed with

Mr Reitzle had been tipped to take over the top job from Mr Pischetsrieder, in which case Longbridge would almost cer-

Home P4

Oldest rocks found

discovered in Canada

Oldest rocks in the world

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

partures came after an all-day meeting of the BMW supervisory board called by the controlling shareholders, the Quandt family, to resolve the

crisis surrounding Rover. Earlier the Government had made clear that there would be financial aid available to BMW

to keep Longbridge open. Closure of the factory would cause up to 50,000 job losses in the West Midlands and spark a political storm. Stephen Byers, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, urged BMW to honour the agreement it reached with unions late last year to keep the

plant open. "The workforce have made changes. We are now looking to BMW to say that it's business as usual; that there are no more changes, that they want to continue with their commitment to Longbridge," he told BBC television.

Mr Byers, who was due to talk to BMW management last 200-400 series. night, also indicated that fiBY PATRICK COCKBURN

and £300m from the Govern-KING HUSSEIN returned to die ment to support development of a new medium-sized car at in Jordan yesterday after treatment for his cancer in the US "It's no secret that we have failed. He was rushed from the been discussing possible supaircraft in an ambulance to a port to help them improve proclosely guarded hospital where, ductivity, to help them build a palace official said, he was some new facilities at Long-

near death". In Amman, mosques were packed with people praying for his recovery. "I hope God gives him more days," said one Jordanian who had just left a mosque. "The Jordanians and the Palestinians both liked him." Earlier the king's doctor had said that his "internal organs had failed" after an unsuccessful bone-marrow

transplant. During his flight from the US he was kept alive by a life-support system. King Hussein has ruled Jordan since 1953. He will be succeeded by his eldest son, Crown Prince Abdullah, who was appointed as his heir two weeks ago, when the king briefly returned to Jordan, declaring himself cured. He suffered an for Longbridge, page 5 | almost immediate relapse.

King Hussein just before his last journey home

As rain lashed down on the will take over the throne with Jordanian capital yesterday, out resistance, but the last-Jordanian radio played solemn minute change in the music, but said only that the succession may lead to longerking had come back to go into hospital. Jordanians are relying on foreign radio stations and satellite television for infor- lar among ordinary Jordanians, matioo on the king's heath.

His death will create uncertainty in one of the pivotal states in the Middle East, since so little is known about his successor. Crown Prince king was close to death. Abdullah has strong support among senior officers in the army and security services and

term divisions within the

The king is genuinely popufew of whom have known any other monarch. Some people were openly crying in the streets yesterday morning as they heard the news that the

Jordanian royal family.

Plucky Little King, page 3 Leading article, Review, page 3

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By Your

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decommissioning as South African leader Comment P3 Foreign P15

FA mystery man David Davies: profile of

The peace process will

break down without

Fergal Keane

INSIDE THE REVIEW

I thought, for a surreal moment, that William Hague had got married again. There he was, leading a blonde woman out of a register office, both of them wearing the kind of embarrassed smiles which are usually confined to a wedding album.9

Joan Smith on Mr and Mrs Hague

THE BEST-WRITTEN SUNDAY PAPER IN BRITAIN, FEATURING DAVID THOMSON, JEREMY CLARKE, PETER YORK, JEREMY PAXMAN, AN WILSON JOAN SMITH, GILBERT ADAIR, MICHAEL BYWATER, DEAR ANNIE, ALAN WATKINS, CAPTAIN MOONLIGHT AND WALLACE ARNOLD

Furore over tax on child benefit

THE CHANCELLOR is facing a BY COLIN BROWN battle with Treasury colleagues and backbench MPs over his plans to raise child benefit but tax it for better-off couples.

Dawn Primarolo, the Paymaster General, has told colleagues she is opposed to child benefit being taxed and Labour MPs are lining up to attack Gor-don Brown if he goes ahead with taxing it in his Budget on 9 March. Mr Brown raised child benefit by £2.50 above inflation in his last Budget. The increase will take effect from next April at a cost of £875m but he gave a clear signal that he would be drawing up plans to tax it.
The Chancellor is believed to

be intent on taxing the benefit with an increase to soften the blow, but he is under intense pressure to abandon the plan.

Former Social Security minister Frank Field has warned it would be difficult to gain any savings by taxing the benefit because of the move to separate taxation for men and women.

Ministers and Labour MPs, who privately were discussing the Budget this week, are opposed to taxing child benefit because it would undermine its value as a universal benefit. The Tories are also prepared to ready to accuse Mr Brown of attacking the middle classes.

In a speech yesterday, the Chancellor gave the strongest hint so far that he intends to boost the value of child benefit main themes of the Budget. "It is because we are determined

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Chief Political Correspondent

Budget will ensure we stay on track to meet our prudent fiscal rules and lay the foundations for a strong economy which supports enterprise, work and families," Mr Brown

The 20 per cent increase in the £11.05-a-week rate of child benefit for the first child will come as a boost to families within weeks of the Budget. It is likely to be taxed for top rate taxpayers, but there will be complications in taxing wealthy unmarried couples where the woman is not working, or is in low-paid employment.

The Chancellor is understood to be planning a radical package of reforms, including the abolition of mortgage interest tax relief (Miras). Labour MPs said this week's half per cent cut in interest rates made it more likely that Miras could be scrapped without protests from home owners.

The star item in the Chan-, cellor's Budget box is expected fight for child benefit, and are of the promised 10p rate of income tax, which could take many low-paid people out of tax altogether.

The move could cost £7hn but abolishing Miras would save over £2bn and the Chanto make the family one of the cellor is believed to have sufficient sums to cover the additional cost of the tax cuts.



Elvis alias Leyton Somors putting up the for sale sign on Elvisly Yours, his shop-shrine to Presley which is moving to the Trocadero at Piccadilly Circus in central London after 17 years in Shoreditch in the East End

Condon 'may not survive Lawrence report'

MINISTERS BELIEVE that the pressure on Sir Paul Condon following the findings of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry may be too great for him to remain as Metropolitan Police Commissioner

Although Sir Paul is not to be a cut in taxes for the low-respected to be blamed est paid, with the introduction | personally in the inquiry report. which is due to be published later this month, there will be criticism of officers in his force investigation and ministers think the pressure may become

to great for him to stay. We would think that senior BY SABAH SCHAEFER Political Reporter

is that there should be a clear break This is a chance to thange race relations for good in this country to ensure that

BRITAIN TODAY

next January, has made it a if the report, by Sir William Macpherson of Clury, turned out to criticise him personally he would go.

"I have never run away from heads will roll as a result of the a challenge in my life. I believe inquiry's findings," a Home that although it is going to be Office source said. "The feeling a painful time for us over the

pertiew months I should have the courage to see through those reforms that will no doubt come out of the inquiry," Sir

Paul has said. The Home Secretary, Jack police misconduct on racial Straw, will also use the results Sir Paul, who is due to retire relations in the police.

Ministers are already point of honour to promise that reviewing the Race Relations Act in the light of the report, which is also expected to accuse the Metropolitan and other police forces of "institutional racism."

The Home Secretary is considering recommendations made by the Commission for

LIGHTING UP

Racial Equality last year which would simplify the complaints procedure against individual police officers.

To make it easier to prove

grounds, under the new Act, ance of probabilities.

At present, disciplinary proceedings are more difficult to succeed because their guilt has to be proven beyond reasonable doubt.

It would also abolish a rule protecting police officers from disciplinary action if criminal proceedings on the same mat-

YESTERDAY

EXTREMES

Similarly, their right of tion on race issues to create silence would be removed and _cultural change," the Home; the Police Complaints Authority would have the power to con-duct its own independent

While the Government will resist imposing quotas for ethnic minorities, police forces employment and promotion and report annually on whether targets are being met.

Police officers could also be asked to attend race and community courses.

"This is a very sensitive issue and legislation on its own will not stop racism within the police. We need better educaOffice source said.

According to the source, the Government will reject the inquiry's criticism, as revealed in The Independent, of the Lawrence familys' lawyers, Michael Mansfield and Imran will have to monitor their Khan for their role in the illfated private prosecution against the five white youth suspected of the murder.

Accountability within the Metropolitan Police is also set to be improved by the Greater London Authority Bill which will set up a new, democratically accountable Metropolitan Police Authority.

free banking 24 hours a day, Bob's your uncle! London: A12 Green Man Roundabout, Leytonstone, Jasjor roadworks on new M11 ink road. Unit 31st December. Carabridgeshäre A10 between Fordon and M11. Presudacing and bridge meinterrence work at Sheprein Mil. Unit 14th February. Bristol: M5 J18-19. Major Roadworks on Automouth Bidge. Unit 23rd June 2001. Lancashine: M6 Between J27 Standish and 25 Leyton. Fondworks; contraition and a Sümph speed limit atther side of Chemock Richard Services. Unit 15th February. Greater Manchester: A57. Narrow Ignes Manchester-bound, due to Metrolink conwww.firstdirect.co.uk

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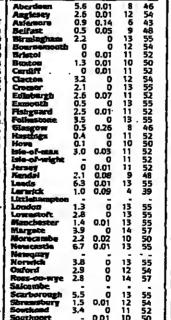


SW & SE Scotland, Edinburgh, Glasgow: Scattered showers, mostly in th west, turning increasingly winity. Better surny spells in the east. A fresh to OUTLOOK After a widespread frost tonight, it will turn even colder on Sunday. There will be sunny periods, especially in the south with any snow generally confined to the Scottish hills. Rain will move in on Monday, preceded by snow in many areas,

studion work. Until 28th February.
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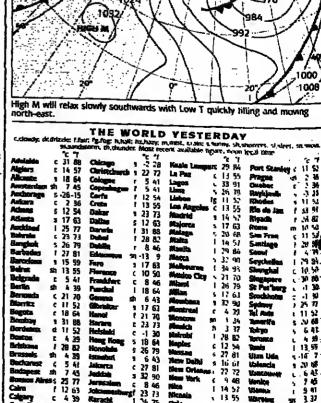


RAIN

OR SHINE... IF YOU don't ask you don't get and in the United Arab Emirates a mass prayer for rain campaign called for by the Emirates President, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, to end a punishing dry spell has ended with overcast skies and rain clouds appearing over Abu Dhabi.

Forecasters now hope the clouds will bring much-needed rain. Prayers were held in all the seven emirates earlier





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'Plucky Little King' who earned the crown of peace in the Middle East

TO THE end, he was a king. BY ROBERT FISK Hussein ibn Talal had spoken in Amman of his own mortality many times, and his last journey yes-terday - 6,000 miles from an American deathbed to the land he ruled for 46 years – became him. Soldiers prefer to die at

A military man, a field commander. Sandhurst graduate. King Hussein had the disconcerting habit when I first met him of calling me "Sir" - he used it with everyone, a gesture of respect that humbled the visitor (and was intended to).

That's why we called him the Plucky Little King, the PLK. Honour was the word that came to mind. He was an honourable man. He believed that if he trusted enough in another person, his good faith would be returned; he was cruelly re-

Many of those who betrayed his hopes will come to his funeral. The Gulf rulers, for example, who never understood why he could not condemn Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait in 1990; the Israelis, who showed their respect for their peace treaty with King Hussein by sending a murder squad to Amman last year; Yasser Arafat, who allowed his Palestinian guerrillas to attempt a coup d'état in 1970 and lied to him about his secret deal with Israel in 1994; and the American president, who re-



King Hussein in 1955

peatedly promised the King a just peace in the Middle Eastand then proved too cowardly to compont the Israeus. And we shall have to suffer

all the glitzy adoration that the guilty show for dead kings. We've already heard President Bill Clinton's soliloguy - "a wonderful human being ... a champion of peace" - and we know what Arafat will say because he's said it before: that King Hussein has been a Saladin, the warrior knight who drove the Crusaders from

In truth, it was the Israelis who drove the Hashemites from Palestine, hut Clinton's words - despite the gutless nature of the man who uttered them - somehow got it right. What king would ever turn up at his own state security jail to drive his most vociferous political prisoner home?

Leith Shubailath had infuriated the monarch - he was a man easily riled - and was slapped into clink for asking why the queen wept at Yitzhak Rabin's funeral.

When the King arrived at the

prison, Shubailath delayed him 10 minutes while he said goodbye to his fellow immates. Hussein waited patiently for him. Would Saddam (who prefers to string his prisoners up) have done that? Would King Fahd? Would President Muharak? Would Benjamin Netanyahu? Perhaps it is this which distinguished the King, among the monsters of the Middle East, he appeared such a reasonable

He was also, in an odd way, a careless man. His folly at joining Egypt's war against Israel in 1967 was compounded in 1990 by his support for Saddam (who also betrayed the king please God HE'S not at the fu-

Hussein demonstrated an equal but more personal recklessness - hubris, perhaps? when he rode in the cold, rainlashed streets of Amman last week in an open-top car. After his first brush with cancer, I asked the King if he had been cured of his illness. "The doctors gave me an excellent hill of health," he replied - how painful those words sound now - and then I noticed the packet of cigarettes lying on the table in front of him. "Ah, yes," he said. "These are the only things I haven't yet given up. And he flicked his finger at the packet in disdain. If his desire for peace

showed vision, he lacked foresight. With their usual obsequiousness, Western as well as Arab leaders have been praising the King for returning to Jordan last week to fire his brother Hassan and create his eldest son crown prince. "Setting his affairs in order"

was what they called it. But even if we ignore the lack of any democratic process for the succession, it was a hit late in the day to start switching your crown princes around. The man who had cemented relationships with scores of kings and generals and presidents albeit not always impressive relationships - was suddenly renone of them. No wonder Jordanians fear the future. For Prince Abdullah is going

to have a spot of bother with the kings and presidents at that funeral. Mr Clinton, for example, will be keen to get the new monarch to set the Iraqi opposition up with hearth and home in Amman, perhaps even to risk a little military foray into Iraq to set up a "safe haven" for Saddam's enemies.

The Israelis would be smiling along with that idea. At which point Saddam would become a threat.

But refuse the United States president - which is what Jordanians would want him to do - and Abdullah may start his reign with an unsympathetic if not downright hostile Washington at his back. Threaten Saddam and the Americans will love him. Ignore Washington and his people will love him; it's the same old trap his

father walked into in 1990. But what Abdullah cannot



King Hussein, credited by his subjects with protecting them from the country's powerful neighbours Gamma

and Sudan, call King Hussein. If there's civil war in Lebanon, ask King Hussein's advice. When Arafat and Netanyahu cannot abide each other at the

them out-much good did it do the monarch, who was be-

But it symbolised what the order bystanders to open their PLK was so good at: defusing windows and then gently, firm-

be is his father. If relations are Wye Plantation, drag King Hus-hreaking down between Egypt sein from his sick bed to sort was, in a very real sense, the re-war. gion's political Bomb Disposal Officer, the one man who could be relied on to calm nerves,

That's why Arabs and Israelis fear for the future. What are they going to do now that there is no one to defuse the

bombs?



A man in Amman praying yesterday for the monarch

Nation waits for the deluge

"I AM so sad," said Saadi, tears BY PATRICK COCKBURN streaming down his face as he lifted crates into a truck in central Amman. "He was such a good man." Five miles away Jordanian soldiers, hooded against the driving rain, were turning visitors away from the gates of a hospital where King Hussein lay dying.

Jordanians learnt the latest news about their king's condihion by listening to foreign radio stations, Jordanian radio said only that he had returned to hospital but played funereal music, which left little doubt about what was happening.

There is a mood of sadness and uncertainty about the fu-ture," said Saida Kilani, a journalist. "People stopped going to parties a week ago, when the King returned to hospital in the US. There was even a small run on the banks. This morning everybody went to pray. You can see some people crying in the streets."

The sense of the end of an era for Jordan is all the greater because of the King's replacement of his hrother, Crown Prince Hassan, with Abdullah, his eldest son, during what the new man is like," said a husinessman. "Hassan was not very popular but he was crown prince for 34 years and people knew what to expect

Most Jordanians are of Palestinian origin. In the rainsoaked vegetable market of al-Hussein refugee camp, just helow the King's Raghada palace, feelings were ambivalent. Mohammed Atwa, born in Amman but whose family came from Jaffa, in what is now Israel, was holding a radio up to his ear to hear the latest news. "Nothing new," he said, putting it down. "But people here liked him. Some of the shops in the market have closed because he is close to the end."

Other Palestinians in the camp felt this was not a good moment to express feelings. "No, no, no," said a trader as he sorted onions in a tray. "Please don't talk to me." Another Palestinian standing near by whispered: "You know why he in Amman

said that. He doesn't want trouble with the police. They are very active at the moment.

By the Roman amphitheatre in Amman, a favourite meeting place for the thousands of Iraqi refugees in Jordan, people huddled under awnings to avoid the storm. Although most Jordanians

knew the King was very ill, they were only beginning to realise yesterday that his death might be a matter of hours. "The goverament should have prepared the people better," said an Iraqi husinessman long resident in Jordan. "Of course the insiders knew all along what was happening, hut not the rest. Nothing will happen now, but there will be trouble later. Rivalries within the royal family are not over."

He was one of the few in Amman willing to speculate about the future. "Jordan will inevitably be weaker without the King. His heir is untried. Probably it lessens the chances of the US doing anything against Iraq because of the uncertain his brief return to Jordan two situation here. [Israeli prime may want to come to the funeral, which gives the Jordanians a problem,"

The imminence of the king's death has silenced talk for the moment about why he sacked Hassan. Mr Kilani said: "People don't really discuss the issue ... They accept Abdullah." The former crown prince. who disappeared from view for a week after his dismissal, has re-emerged. Privately, however, some Jordanians speculate on how long royal unity will last

Overall, Jordanians do feel King Hussein protected them from the country's neighbours, all of them more powerful. He balanced between Israel

Iraq, Syria and Saudi Arabia. in the pay of many hut bought **by** повосу.

after the King's funeral.

Jordanians know these external pressures are increasing and wonder how Abdullah, an army general long consid-

THE ROYAL SUCCESSION

Prince Hassan Brother, born 1947 Brother, born 1940 Queen Noor Princess Dina Wife, 1972-77 (died in Wife, 1955-56 (divorced) air crash) ne Alia Toukan ne Dina Abdel Hamid Prince Ali

Jordan's balancing act faces serious upset

Jordan is a huffer state between more powerful countries, notably Israel and Iraq. King Hussein's political career was spent playing his enemies off against each other.

It was not easy. The king needed to keep in with the great powers, but preserve his nationalist credentials. An early act of the young Harrow and Sandhurst-educated monarch was to fire his British military adviser "Glubb Pasha". In 1967 he joined Egypt and Syria to fight Israel only to lose the West Bank. In 1991 he won

IT WAS always a balancing act. By PATRICK COCKBURN

overwhelming popular support by maintaining a friendly neutrality towards Iraq during the Gulf war. But the king was also the man who crushed the Palestinians in Jordan in a bloody civil war in 1970 and three years later he secretly flew to Israel to tell a disbelieving Israeli premier that Egypt and Syria were about to launch a war.

He played both ends against the middle because he believed Jordan's weakness - 4.4 million people and no natural

him no choice. The king also knew any foreign policy failures would have immediate domestic consequences.

More than half the population of Jordan is Palestinian, largely excluded from power but dominating private business. He needed an Israeli guarantee against Iraq, hut not at the price of permanently alienating the Palestinians.

He death, considered all hut inevitable, comes at a bad moment for Jordan. In 1994 the with Israel It has produced no ordinary Jordanians.

resources or defences - left economic and few political div-Jordanians and Palestinians of Jordanian policy than alike, although it got him back into the good graces of the US. A year later he broke with Iraq.

But negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians are now stalemated and Saddam Hussein has survived. Both Prince Abdullah, is an have felt free to send their assassination squads into the streets of Amman.

Washington is pressuring Jordan to turn itself into a base for action against Iraq, a King signed a peace treaty policy wildly unpopular among see if the house King Hussein

There is a much higger idends an is unpopular among question mark over the future expected a month ago. This is because of the dismissal of Crown Prince Hassan, the king's hrother and primary lieutenant. The new heir to the throne, the king's eldest son

> unknown quantity. For the moment Jordan is weaker, because part of its strength was the astuteness and prestige of King Hussein. Its neighbours are waiting to huilt will hold together.

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With effect from 4th February 1999, interest rates payable on the undernoted accounts have changed.



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Britain put on alert for IRA bombs

A REVIEW of security across mainland Britain was underway yesterday amid fears of renewed violence by dissident republicans opposed to the IRA ceasefire and the Ulster peace

The Home Office denied ministers had been warned that specific mainland sites, such as Canary Wharf, in London's Docklands area, were being targeted by the breakaway faction of the Provisional IRA, but said a review of security was being carried out.

"There is a review of security under way, but there has been no specific threat from any individual terrorist group that has led to this action," said a Home Office spokesman.

Since the ceasefire, security has been relaxed around likely targets such as the Palace of Westminster, but it is believed police have reinforced the tight security around the Square Mile of the City of London, a prime economic target for the bombers in the past.

The review came as Martin to Belfast for more talks with the pende McGuinness, the Sinn Fein parties, if necessary, to break the found.

Chief Political Correspondent

chief negotiator, said yesterday: "There are republican rejectionists out there who are obviously opposed to the Sinn Fein peace strategy and who wish to bring it down. These

and they are totally and absolutely clearly not speaking for the overwhelming majority of republicans who have in election after election supported Calling on David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist First Min-

ister of the new Northern Assembly, to hold his nerve, Mr McGuinness said on BBC radio that there were also unrepresentative loyalist groups attacking the nationalist community on an almost daily basis. "These can be defeated by combined political action of unionworking together to implement the Good Friday Agreement."

Tony Blair is prepared to go

deadlock between the Ulster Unionists and Sinn Fein over the establishment of the powersharing executive, which has threatened to wreck the peace

The crisis in the peace process was discussed in a phone call between Mr Blair and President Bill Clinton on Thursday night. There are rumours at Westminster that President Clinton will be exerting pressure on Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams and Mr McGuinness during the St Patrick's Day celebrations in the United States for the IRA to call a halt to the punishment beatings, which have undermined the process.

Mr Trimble said he was sticking to his demand for a start to the decommissioning of IRA weapons before sitting down in the executive with Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness

Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime ist and republican leaders Minister ruled out suggestions circulating at Westminster that establishment of the assembly and executive could be suspended until a solution was



Peter Mandelson, MP for Hartlepool, leaves hand prints in wet cement yesterday to mark the first opening of a cinema in Hartlepool since the Eighties - a £6m, seven-screen complex

Owen Humphreys

Sinn Fein and Ahern clash over jailings

tween the Irish Government and Sinn Fein over the Good Friday Agreement as four men were jailed yesterday for killing Limerick Garda Jerry McCabe

during a June 1996 IRA robbery. The Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, on a visit to Northern Ireland, insisted the four would serve "whatever sentences were handed down by the court". But

think these men will qualify" for the early release scheme.

Dublin has repeatedly insisted Good Friday Agreement early releases were qualified by a protocol, subject of intense argument during final negotiations last April, excluding from the scheme certain prisoners Sinn Fein's Martin McGuin- awaiting trial including the Mcness predicted "I certainly Cabe accused Former Brixton

of Strabane, and Kevin Walsh, 42, of Patrickswell, Limerick, were jailed for 14 years at Dublin's Special Criminal Court. Jeremiah Sheehy, 36, of Rathkeale, and Michael O'Neill, 48, of Patrickswell, received 12 and 11-year terms respective-

The four pleaded guilty to manslaughter. A fifth, John Quinn, aged 30, received six years for conspiracy to rob.

Stalker targeted radio celebrities before death

A BUSINESSMAN accused of By Jackie Burdon stalking the television presenter Ulrika Jonsson also bombarded Terry Wogan and other BBC Radio 2 personalities with bizarre letters and gifts before his death last month, it

emerged vesterday. Mr Wogan, Ken Bruce and Alex Lester realised that they

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had all been pestered by Nicholas Rathbone, 40, a Cheshire company director, when they heard reports of his death yesterday.

Mr Rathbone's body was found near his car on 20 January. He was killed by carbon

monoxide poisoning. He had been due to appear before Maidenhead magistrates' court on Thursday on charges of stalking Ms Jonsson.

Mr Rathbone met Mr Wogan and his radio show producer; Paul Walters, three years ago, during an outside broadcast in Crewe. Then the letters start-

ed. Mr Walters now has a whole All beautifully word-processed in a distinctive italic box file, including a manuscript of a book. "I call it the Rathbone typeface, they revealed Mr Rathbone believed the songs file," he said. "Terry said to me: One day this guy will do Mr Wogan played on his show something silly. He will either contained secret messages for come down here and stick a him alone. "Once or twice he didn't like the message, and he knife in me or kill somebody or would write something rather something.' I stopped showing them to him after a while." vitriolic." Mr Walters said.

Mr Rathbone also repeatedly sent faxes to the late-night radio presenter Alex Lester, which revealed his fixation with woman whose rejection he could not accept. It was only re-

cently that Mr Lester realised that the woman was Ms Jonsson. "He seemed to be fixated with a woman who he imagined

had given him the come-on through something she said on TV. I had no idea who he meant. It seemed to me he had been rejected and could not understand it," Mr Lester said. "The next thing I knew, I got

a letter with an enclosure which he asked me to deliver to Ulrika." He did not pass it on.

Inches stay for 10 more years

BY GEOFF MEADE

BRITAIN IS keeping feet and inches for another 10 years - because America has failed to adopt EU standards.

Imperial units were due to disappear at the end of this year when metrication replaced what Brussels calls the "inchpound" system across the European Union.

But industries facing multibillion pound costs to meet new metric-only labelling laws have won a breathing space until 2009.

Moves to harmonise units of measure began 30 years, before Britain joined the EU. Since then centimetres, metres and kilograms have steadily been taking over, with famous exceptions such as the mile and the pint of beer.

Businesses facing a labelling nightmare were given a reprieve in 1989 and told that imperial units would finally be outlawed from 1999.

But firms dealing in goods from consumer electronics to perfumery have battled on, complaining that they would have to set up two production lines, with goods destined for the EU market labelled with metric measurements and those going for export to the US continuing to use imperial measures.

Without America ready to make the conversion, the European Commission has agreed to recommend another

"US legislation requires that declarations of quantities of consumer products be given both metric and inch-pound units," according to a new Commission report.

"European exporters are obliged to place dual indications on products destined for the US market."

Euro MPs are now being asked to endorse the reprieve to allow continued dual labelling, so "maintaining compatibility with the present US legislation".

The Commission recomnendation states: "With the objective of facilitating international trade the proposal creates a further transition period of 10 years, during which time measures must be taken both by the EU and US to eliminate remaining obstacles especially regarding labelling."

The European Commissioner Martin Bengemann has been frustrated by the failure of the US administration to foilow up its commitment to moves towards the metric system, which was originally promised back in the 19th century.

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IN BRIEF

Compensation after penis surgery

A 62-YEAR-OLD man yesterday won £49,000 compensation from a hospital which removed most of his penis in a routine operation. James Bryans, 62, of Borehamwood, Herts, suffered severe depression after the operation at North London's Mount Verson Hospital in 1993, which was aimed at helping him to urinate more easily.

RAF officer cleared of rape A RAF officer was yesterday cleared of raping a guest at

an air force dinner-dance. Flt Lt Stephen Thacker 34. denied raping the woman after the dinner at his base near Swindon, Wiltshire, in March last year. The jury sitting at Bristol Crown Court took four hours to clear the officer, who had told the court the woman had instigated sex.

Boys held on stabbing charge

TWO BOYS, aged 13 and 14, charged with attempting to murder a 13-year-old boy were remanded into secure accommodation until 12 February when they appeared in court in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, yesterday. The alleged victim was discovered with serious stab wounds on 19 January at the bottom of an incline in Harrogate.

Two teenagers killed by train

TWO TEENAGE boys were killed yesterday when they were struck by a train on the railway line outside Londonderry, Ulster They were hit by the Londonderryto-Belfast passenger train, close to the village of Greysteele, said an RUC spokesman. The youngsters were declared dead on arrival at hospital in Londonderry.

Council admits to causing stress

A CITY COUNCIL has paid a former employee an interim payment of £10,000 after admitting it was responsible for causing her excessive stress at work. Birmingham City Council is being sued by Beverley Lancaster, aged in her 40s, who claims she was forced to retire from her post as housing officer because of a stress-related illness

Brown hits back over travel costs

GORDON BROWN hit back at criticism of his refusal to answer questions about his travel arrangements yesterday with a declaration by Andrew Turnbull, the Treasury's Permanent Secretary, that proper procedures had been followed on a trip abroad. Tory MPs questioned his use of helicopters and private jets costing £20,000.

Web lottery wants to advertise

A MULTI-MILLION dollar jackpot lottery operating on the Internet has been granted a judicial review for the right to overturn the advertising monopoly of the National Lottery Millions2000 Internet Lottery wants the right to advertise its prizes of up to \$50m (£13m) in Britain. .

'I shot down Amy Johnson's plane' admits old soldier

SHE was the feministicon of her BY GARY FINN time, the first woman to fly solo to Australia. But the fatal crash that claimed Amy Johnson's life has always been shrouded

Now it seems her death was a cruel combination of bad luck, a bad memory and a keen gunner at an anti-aircraft battery on the river Thames

Yesterday, old soldier Tom Mitchell, from Crowborough, Kent, claimed that it was he who shot the heroine down when she twice falled to give the correct identification code during a routine flight on 5 January, 1941. Eleven years earlier Johnson

had stunned the world, breaking gender stereotypes and taboos of the time, by flying from England to Australia.

Nearly 60 years on, Mr Mitchell, aged 83, admits to a pressing sense of guilt for killing a cultural icon. But following recent family deaths he felt he had to set the record straight.

He said: "The reason Amy was shot down was because she gave the wrong colour of the day la signal to identify planes known by all British forces]

Mr Mitchell was one of more



Johnson: Feminist icon

than 20 soldiers based at the Thames Estuary, who were ordered to shoot down the unidentified plane flying towards the



Transport Auxiliary pilot. Mr Mitchell explained how the plane was sighted and con-tacted by radio. A request was made for the signal - she gave the wrong one twice.

"Sixteen rounds of shells were fired and the plane dived into the Thames Estuary. We all thought it was an enemy plane until the next day when we read the papers and discovered it was Amy. The officers told us never to tell anyone what happened."

On the Tracks of Marco Polo

PEKING, SHANGHAI, SUZHOU AND GRAND CANAL CRUISE

This is a wonderful opportunity to visit some of the well known sights of ancient and contemporary China at a very moderate tariff. The journey commences with a scheduled flight from London Heathrow to Peking. In Peking stay at the 4-star Holiday Inn Lido Hotel for two nights on full board. Included during our stay are visits to the Great Wall, dinner at a local restaurant and a visit to the famous Peking Opera.

From Peking fly to Shanghai for two nights at the 3-star Zhaoan Hotel including a full circle of the start of the

sightseeing programme.

From Shanghai we board the train and travel west to the 'Garden City' of Suzhou, stay two nights at the 4-star Aster Hotel where we visit two of the most famous gardens and take a three-hour cruise by launch along the Grand Canal to the 'Silk' town of Wuxi. The following day return by road to Shanghai and fly to Peking in the morning. In the afternoon a visit is made to Tian an Men Square and the Forbidden City with a farewell Peking Duck banquet in the evening. The journey



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Byers pledges to save Longbridge

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday made it clear that BMW would be offered aid from the taxpayer to keep Rover's giant Longbridge plant open.

Stephen Byers, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said that it was no secret that ministers had been discussing possible support to keep the plant open and build a new model at Longbridge.

Nevertheless, ministers and unions agree that the survival of the plant has never been more uncertain than now.

If the works does shut it would not just mean the disappearance of another piece of Britain's industrial landscape. It would represent the end of an era: in motoring, industrial re**Business Editor**

lations, and manufacturing. A vast and sprawling complex concealing 12 miles of road, nine miles of railway and an immense subterranean network of tunnels, Longbridge has always been more than just a factory. It is a way of life, a small town in its own right providing a livelihood for 30,000

car workers at its peak. It was a symbol of Britain's post-war industrial prowess and it became the battleground on which left and right fought for the hearts and minds of the working man during the epic union struggles of the 1970s.

Books have been devoted to

the birthplace of the affluent working class. It was Longbridge man who begat Mondeo man. Now BMW man looks ready to decree that there is no place in the modern car industry for Longbridge.

The end of car production there would blow a great big hole in the West Midlands economy. Some 50,000 jobs are dependent on the plant. Every day some 500 suppliers deliver components into the site with a total annual value of £1.5bn.

But the end of Longbridge would also tear a huge piece out. of the fabric of our motoring history. The Austin Seven, the Big Seven and the Cambridge models of the inter-war years, the

the sociology of Longbridge - Mini, and the Austin 1100, the lines, it was an ideal location for By 1930 Longbridge was procar which became the UK's best seller for most of the 1960s, were all produced there. Together with its sister plant at Cowley in Oxford, Longbridge once accounted for one in every

> three cars sold in Britain. Car sales figures for last month, show that Rover's share of the market shrank to less than 5 per cent.

The plant's origins date back to1905. Riding around Birmingham on his bicycle in search of somewhere to start making cars, Herbert Austin came across the disused White and Pike printing works. Situated next to the Midland Railway's main Birmingham to Gloucester and Halesowen branch

bringing parts in and taking fin-

He bought the site for £7,750 and began production two years later. In its first year Longbridge produced just 23 cars. But by 1910 the workforce had reached 1,000 and Austin had added a night shift.

The advent of war in 1914 turned Longbridge into an aircraft and munitions factory. By 1918 it had produced more than 2,000 aeroplanes, including the famous SE5a fighter, 8 million shells, 650 guns and 500 armoured cars.

The inter-war years saw the return to car production and the introduction of the Austin Seven and Cambridge models.

ducing 1,000 cars a week.

The outbreak of the Second World War saw a return to military production and by 1945 Longbridge had produced 3,000 aircraft including Hurricanes. Stirling and Lancaster bom bers. A year after the war ended Longbridge celebrated the production of its millionth

car, an Austin 16f. In 1952, Austin merged with the Nuffield organisation and Longbridge became the headquarters of the British Motor Corporation. Under an agreement with Donald Healey, Longbridge began production of the Austin Healey 100 sports car in 1953 to be followed six years later by the Mini.

In 1964 production reached an all-time peak of 345,245 vehicles. Since then, however, it has been more or less downhill for Longbridge.

It developed a reputation

for industrial unrest. Sir Michael Edwardes came within an ace of closing the plant in the late 1970s after a succession of long and bruising encounters with trade union militants, led by Red Robbo - Derek Robinson. Mrs Thatcher would have engineered its closure a decade later had her attempt to sell Austin Rover to Ford succeed-

Periodically, a new dawn would appear to break for Longbridge but they always turned out to be false. In 1980

Longbridge began production of the Metro at the new west works. The facility was bristling with so much new technology that it doubled Britain's population of welding robots.

But the arrival of the Japanese transplant factories in the 1980s, starting with Nissan, showed the British motor industry what an efficient car plant really looked like. In 1997. Nissan's Sunderland plant was the most productive in Europe with an output of 98 cars per man. Longbridge ranked twenty-fifth alongside Skoda with a production rate of 33 cars per

It is that one chilling statistic as much as anything that may well do for Longbridge.

Launch

hit by

board

upsets

BY JOHN SIMISTER

from the board.

THE TIMING could not be

worse. Rover has just launched

its new model 75 to the world's

press, and now its parent com-

pany, BMW, has ditched chair-

man Bernd Pischetsrieder

of unfortunate timing at last Oc-

tober's Birmingham Motor

Show, Rover unveiled the hand-

some model 75 just as BMW put

the squeeze oo Rover's Long-

bridge plant in Birmingham. What is a Rover, anyway? It

used to stand for something a

cut above the rest, but recent

Rovers have drawn heavily on

Honda underpinnings, and

come across as cars created on

the cheap. Rovers nowadays are bought by company fleets

trying to be visibly British, or by

lc pretence, feel cheaper, looser and more plasticky, and

people think they go wrong a lot.

even though that's no longer

from Ford and Vauxhall, and in

export markets that is how

Plans are in place to change

stage. If Rover is allowed to

move fast, there is still enough

residual public awareness of

Rover's past values for a viable

revival. But if BMW continues

they are perceived.

Their real rivals are cars

Rovers, despite the cosmet-

the elderly.

There was a similar example

A long wait for the news from Bavaria

FROM THE outside, it looked like any Friday at one of Britain's biggest car plants. The shift workers poured mand out of the many gates of Rover's Longbridge Works, huge lorries delivered parts and by yesterday evening the site was largely empty - for there is no Friday night shift.

But inside the works it had been one long day of waiting, hoping and uncertainty while the board of the parent company met in Munich and finally sealed the fate of of BMW's chairman, Bernd Pischetsrieder, the greatest supporter of keeping Longbridge open. He and his biggest opponent, the deputy chairman, Wolfgang Reitzle, were both removed from the company.

Lonebridge workers heading home earlier were asking journalists outside the plant what the latest news was from Bavaria - they had been told nothing by their own managers.

John Partridge, Midlands regional secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union - the largest at Rover said last night: "Understandably, morale at Longbridge is very low amid all the frenzied speculation. You can almost see the question-mark hanging

over the works." He said the plant's 14,000 workers had desperately wanted Mr Pischetsrieder to keep his job. He was seen as the man who guaranteed the owner's adherence to last autumn's deal to save the plant, in return for new flexible working arrangements and higher productivity promised by the unions. "He is the architect of hands."

first direct

BY NICHOLAS SCHOON

that agreement to invest in Longbridge," said Mr Partridge. Now they feared the works on Birmingham's southern fringe may face drastic cut-backs or closure.

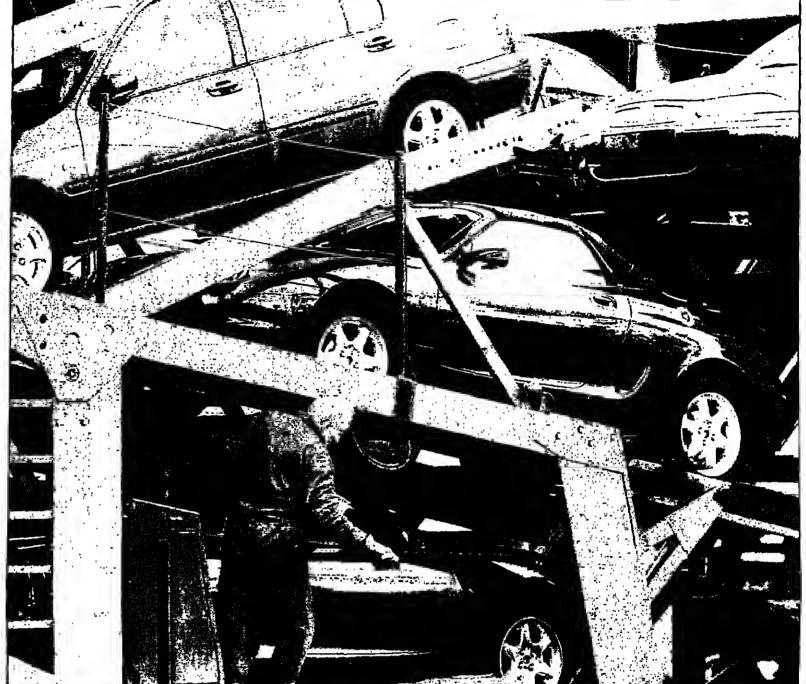
Rover's sales have sunk to half the level of a year ago. The 11,200 vehicles sold last month represent 4.6 per cent of the UK market, and its losses are costing BMW dearly.

One worker, who asked not to be named, said: "It's the end of this place ... because he [Mr Pischetsrieder] was the only one who supported us through all the difficulties." Another said: "Tve heard ... the only two places BMW is interested in are Cowley [Oxford] and Solihull, Birmingham."

Others complained about the uncertainty hanging over them and management's inability to give them any reassurances about the future. Night shifts were ended for several weeks at Christmas but have since been reinstated.

Roger Lyons, secretary of

the Manufacturing Science and Finance union, said British unions would be "relieved" that Mr Keitzie had not taken over but that the new man's views on myestment at Rover were unknown. "We will be seeking an early meeting with Professor [Joachim] Milberg," Mr Lyons said. "We don't believe a change in personnel should in any way affect a done deal." Union sources described Professor Milberg as a well-respected, long-serving BMW executive who would be a "safe pair of



Soft line with Rover was the downfall of car-loving boss

BERND PISCHETSRIEDER, dis- By IMRE KARACS missed yesterday from the in Bonn board of BMW, is not averse to taking a high-performance and set about expansion. Only model out for a spin and wreck-

A soft-spoken Angiophile, he was accused by his German colleagues of having been too kind to Rover's British man-

studying engineering, and rose quickly through the ranks.

He acquired international experience between 1982 and 85 as head of the South African subsidiary.

Mr Pischetsrieder took over the reins of BMW in 1993, and wasted little time taking the family-owned company on a dangerous road. He saw the Bavarian firm as too isolated among the behemoths that vere taking over the world.

a year after into his reign, he stunned the automotive world by buying Rover, which was then allied with Honda. The move was widely greeted in the car industry as a bold step to broaden BMW's product range He joined BMW in 1973 after with a mass-market, frontwheel drive model range that would bring technological benefits for the rear-wheel drive

Although Rover was a money-loser, most believed that BMW, with its reputation for quality engineering and deep pockets, would have few difficulties in turning Rover Indeed, even as BMW

poured billions of marks into Rover, most analysts continued

Hard man of BMW also goes



Pischetsrieder: Refused to take a tougher line

to put their faith in Mr Pischetsrieder, who kept turning in higher profits and sales. Last year, though, Munich believes the BMW boss lost the plot. Despite mounting evidence of

problems at the British plants, which he concealed from his board, he would not contemplate a tougher line with British managers, as advocated by his

Many factors were responsible for Rover's poor performance - notably the strong pound - and Mr Pischetsrieder sked for patience. The owners, though, grew increasingly con-

The recent revelation that profits fell last year, despite a record turnover, appeared to seal his fate.

Munich, and the money men in Frankfurt, decided BMW would be better off without him. As rumours spread about his imminent dismissal Mr Pischetsrieder experienced the final bumiliation: BMW share prices soared by 7 per

strength to strength. Sales and profits of the Munich fac-

tory soared, and the cars

basked in almost universal

Nor did he stop reminding

whoever would care to listen

that the Rover project has been

a flop. He continued to advocate

limiting the Rover range

just to Minis and Land Rovers,

and possibly closing Long-

In personality Mr Reitzle is

the very opposite of Mr

While Mr Pischetsrieder is

accolades.

bridge.



House of Commons, London, SW1A OAA.

Please read the report by the Animal Detenders on the use

of animals in circuses, entitled 'The Ugliesi Show on Earth 7,000 hours of observation backed by 800 hours of videotape concluded that daily life for circus animals is one of boredom, frustration, and confinement, often leading to abnormal behaviour. Daily physical abuse includes the use of whips, iron bars, and broomhandles to move animals about. I believe that the use of animals in circuses cannot be justified.

Please also sign EDM 64 'Circus Animals', and write to George Howarth at the Home Office and to Alan Meale at the Department of the Environment Transport & Regions, asking that in the first instance, performing animal training centres (winter quarters) be brought under the 1981
Zoo Licensing Act (so that established welfare standards are not lowered for circuses), and second, the use of animals in

travelling circuses be banned

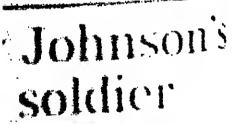
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THIS IS not the first time BY IMRE KARACS

that insiders had prematurely crowned Wolfgang Reitzle as the new chief executive of BMW Mr Reitzle was seen for

many years as the unchallenged "crown prince". But when the succession took place in 1993, he was overlooked for boss's recipe for success. the top job in favour of Bernd Pischetsrieder.

There was a question about his loyalty, amid rumours that The owners may have also mistrusted his antagonistic style. Worse was to follow. After the

takeover of Rover, Mr Reitzle was handed the poison chalice. He maintained that Rover could only be run as an integrated part of BMW - in other words, by people from Munich

rather than by Britisb managers. He eventually wriggled out of that assignment, but never

wavered in his criticism of the British subsidiary, or of his By all accounts, Mr Reitzle is a brilliant engineer. He joined BMW after university as a pro-

duction technology expert. He he was flirting with Porsche. held several jobs, including head of engine production, head of technical planning, and general manager.

He was only 36 years old when he joined the board, with responsibility for research and development. The technical excellence of BMW cars owes



Reitzle: Brilliant engineer with go-getting personality

a lot to his vision, company in-

Mr Reitzle never missed an baby, BMW, was growing from sonality Nina Ruge.



opportunity to point out that his

something of a quiet eccentric Mr Reitzle is loud and brash, with film-star looks and a lifestyle to match. He currently lives with the German TV per-

Pischetsrieder.

Tel. 0181 846 9777

World's oldest rocks found in Canada

THEY MAY look like a pile of old BY STEVE CONNOR rubble, but for geologists the Science Editor grey-black stones found in Canada have turned out to be the oldest rocks in the world.

Scientists have dated the rocks, found in the western Slave Province of the Northwestern Territories, to 4.06 billion years, making them hundreds of millions of years older than the previous oldest rocks and half a billioo years

Sam Bowring, professor of geology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts, said the find opens a new window oo a little-known period. these rocks is that they are not remarkable. They look like any other rocks on Earth today, which shows how the productioo of rocks hasn't changed in

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Geologists once thought no rocks could be older than 3.8 billion years, because the Earth had suffered meteorite bombardment before then, suggesting nothing on its surface could have survived.

But in the Eighties scientists who analysed minerals in the ancient rocks of Western younger than the Earth itself. Australia discovered crystals more than 4 billion years old. The search began to find rocks that could be this old.

The Canadian rocks are igneous - they were formed under the volcanic conditions "What is remarkable about of the Earth's interior - and contain microscopic "time capsules" of zircon crystals. Two kinds of uranium isotopes within the crystals degrade into isotopes of lead at a known rate, giving scientists two clocks to gauge the age of the material to within a couple of million years.

The oldest rocks to contain signs of life date to 3.8 billion years and were found in sedimentary deposits in Greenland. Sedimentary rocks are formed under watery, low-temperature conditions which are conducive to the survival of living organisms. Professor Bowring said be hopes to search the same part of Canada for similar sedimentary rocks which may possess fos-silised remains of the earliest

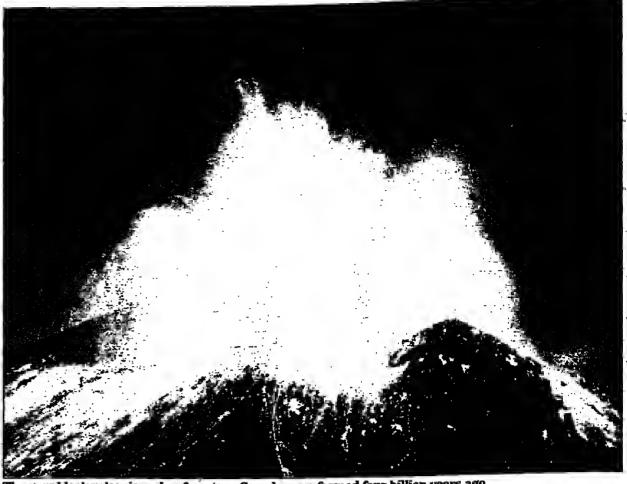
life forms to have evolved. "There could be sedimentary rocks dating back to then. although no one knows when the oceans were in place which helped them to form," he said. If we find sedimentary rocks as old as 4 billion years I think we'll find evidence of life in

Ian Williams, a geologist at the Australian National University in Canberra and co-discoverer of the rocks, said: "The real interest in the old rocks will be to study their chemical and isotopic compositions. which will provide direct information on the rock-forming processes that were operating 4,000 million years ago and how

"Even though these are the oldest rocks known, hidden within some of their zircon crystals we have found remnants of smaller zircons that are even older. These must have come from the rock from which these oldest rocks were formed.

the earliest continents formed.

The latest find could also help to establish whether the Earth's crust undergoes continual turnover or whether it is the result of a gradual accumulation of new material.



The grey-black volcanic rocks of western Canada were formed four billion years ago

THE TOO STARTS AT E1120

Sainsbury's admit Cleese ad is faulty

SAINSBURY'S HIGH-PROFILE BY RHYS WILLIAMS Value to Shout About campaign, fronted by John Cleese, has flopped, the chain admitted.

The television commercials, featuring Mr Cleese as a garishly clad eccentric running around a store with a megaphone, has been voted the most britating ad campaign of the past 12 months and was criticised by staff for making them look foolish. Now Dino Adriano. Sainsbury's chief executive, has said that although it helped bring in more customers, it "did not meet its sales targets". He said the average transaction size and average spend had fallen over the past few months as shoppers cherry-picked the best bargains.

Although only one element in wider bid by Sainsbury's to shed consumer perceptions of Cleese's role in the campaign

"John Cleese is the last reof ideas," said Stefano Hatfield, editor of the advertising industry magazine Compaign. "If in doubt, call for John Cleese or Joanna Lumley. John Cleese

running around shouting has been done so many times before that nobody takes any notice any more."

Mr Hatfield added that the

advert's failings reflected difficulties Sainsbury's was having trying to communicate value for money while not implying any loss in quality. From being the middle-class grocer, Sainsbury's has not really found itself a new positioning from which it challenge Tesco." Sainsbury's said they would continue to use Mr Cleese as an advertising vehicle in the short term despite his cost - reportedly £400.000.

The agency responsible, Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO, admitted earlier films had "over-executed" the idea of the store as expensive, Mr "value worth shouting about" but more recent work had been well received in research "Sainsbury's always used to sort of people who have run out talk about quality and to suddenly start talking about value was a shock for a lot of people," said Mark Peterson, account director at Abbott Mead Vickers.

Shares plunge, page 19

Pair deny 'Mardi Gra' bombings

TWO ELDERLY brothers ac- By Jason Bennetto cused of carrying out the "Mardi Gra" bombing campaign against Barclays Bank and Sainsbury's supermarkets yesterday denied all charges.

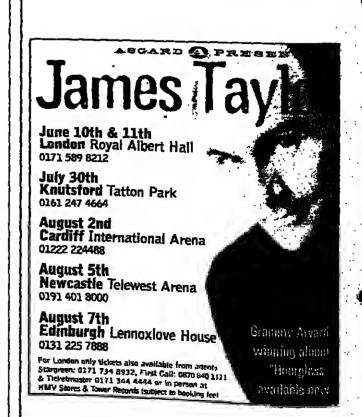
Edgar Pearce, 61, and his

brother Ronald, 67, pleaded

not guilty to a total of 20 counts

Crime Correspondent

mail and bombing campaign. The alleged offences took place from 1 December 1994 to 28 April 1998. The men, both from Chiswick, west London. were remanded in custody and at the Old Bailey, related to the are due to stand trial oo 7. three-and-s-half year black- April.





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Gandhi's luck to miss the spiteful press

THINKING ABOUT the fate of England's football coach, as every newspaper and oewsshow insists we must, I have also been thinking about Mahatma Gandhi. Agreed: the connections made by the human mind are sometimes very strange.

IN 1934 a great earthquake shook northern India and many thousands of people, most of them poor, died under rubble and earth. Mahatma Gandhi said that it was their own fault. They had been sinful and God was punishing

As Gandhi was then the most popular political figure in India and oo his way to sainthood status in the rest of the world, his remarks were of a kind which would come to be described later in the century this week in fact - as an "error of judgement". Gandhi symbolised non-violence and. by extension, gentleness and compassion. This reputation was obviously at risk

There were also more pragmatic considerations for his colleagues in the Indian independence movement. Gandhi was then their only mass leader, but his political power depended on the support of unprivileged Indians like the many who were now grieving over their crushed and dead relations.

Gandhi already had critics British, inside the independence movement and out of it. His religious beliefs melded his own Hinduism with aspects of Christianity. "Mish-mash" is this week's word. Earthquakesmuch to the Old Testament as epics. His social ideas - favouring handicrafts over machines, villages over industrial towns were partly inspired by English Victorian utopians. His egalitarianism came from the Euro- he did not get them.

NOTEBOOK



IAN JACK

pean Enlightenment. He be-lieved that the caste system detracted from human dignity, that untouchability should be abolished, that even the highest castes should clean their own cesspits

Perhaps only in the most superficial way - his dress - did he completely exemplify the reality of the ordinary Indian. Almost everything else about him was controversial inside his own country.

The newspapers had a field day: "Gandhi's Gaffe", "The Muddled Mahatma", and so on. Politicians, sniffing the populist breeze, were quick to follow. The Minister for Tramcars and Government Stationery (Bengal) told the Calcutta Assemhly, to laughter, that Gandhi "couldn't tell his karma from his Calvin". There were many other jests of that kind. Still, Gandhi might have

survived had his fellow-leader, and enemies, Indian as well as Pandit Nehru, not chosen to appear on an early All-India Radio talk show, A Jolly Good Morning, with Sunil and Smita. The programme was known for its "light, bright look" at current events and people in the as-punishment clearly owed as news. Nehru did not expect searching questions ahout anything in the ancient Indian Hindu-Muslim relations, the cure for mass poverty, or how quickly (if at all) his country could leave the British Empire - otherwise he would not have gone on the show. And indeed

Sunil and Smita said it was great to have him in the studio. Nehru said it was great to be there. Smita adjusted her sari, uncovering a fetching slice of midriff. Sunil asked about the new Viceroy ("quite a nice bloke", said Nehru). Smita wanted to know how his daughter, Indira, was getting on at her Swiss boarding school ("oh, y'know, throwin' snowballs, ski-in', eatin' fondu and that kinda thing," said Nehru,

smiling, "a typical Indian kid"). It was going so well. Then came an awkward one: the earthquake question. Nehru had prepared for this; be knew what to do and say. A smile, a shrug, something about Gandhi just being Gandhi, the ever-

present danger of misquotation. But there was in Nehru a desperate wish to be liked, to be Mr Bloke, to share the opinions of your average man in a dhoti. So he said, well, y know, if Gandhi had actually said what be was reported to have said, then, yes, he would have to go.

The oext day Gandhi went Several trays of photographie flash-powder fizzed and popped as a half-naked man retreated behind the doors of his ashram. where he span happily and privately for the next 30 years. Historians still argue over whether, had he stayed, India might been independent earlier than 1961, or won cricket's world cup

HOW MUCH of the above is true? This much:

On 15 January 1934, an earthquake flattened several towns in the state of Bihar The precise casualty figures will never be known, but certainly tens of thousands of people died. Gandhi, who was then campaigning against untouchability a thousand miles public statement. "A man like

Mahatma Gandhi, visiting London in 1948. Unlike Glenn Hoddle, he survived his comments on God's punishments

me", he said, "cannot but believe that this earthquake is a divine chastisement sent by God for our sins... For me there is a vital connection between the Bihar calamity and the untouchability campaign."

Several of his friends and associates were abocked. Rabindranath Tagore, the writer/philosopher who was the first oon-white to win a Nobel prize, issued another public statement in reply which expressed his "painful surprise" at his friend's "truly

"It is all the more unfortunate," said Tagore, "because this kind of unscientific view of phenomenon is too readily accepted by a large section of our countrymen... If we associate ethical principles with the cosmic phenomena, we shall have to admit that human nature is morally much superior to [a] Providence that preaches its lessons of good behaviour in orway in southern India, made a gies of the worst behaviour possible. For we can never imagine

any civilised ruler of men making indiscriminate examples of casual victims... in order to impress others dwelling at a safe distance, who possibly deserve more severe condemnation."

Gandhi, who could be stubborn and slippery at the same time, showed no remorse. Far from mumhling about his words being taken out of context or distorted, he wrote a piece for his oewspaper, the Harijan, which only added to the original offence. "We do oot know the laws of God nor their working. Knowledge of the tallest scientist or the spiritualist is like a particle of dust... With me the connection between cosmic phenomena and human behaviour is a living faith that draws me nearer to

me readier for facing him." Nehru was beginning a tour of the earthquake zone when be read Gandhi's first statement. Later be wrote: "A staggering remark.... Anything more op-

God, humbles me and makes

it would be difficult to imagine... The idea of sin and divine wrath and man's relative importance in the affairs of the universe - they take us back a few bundred years when the Inquisition flourished and burned Giordano Bruno for his scientific heresy and sent many a witch to the stake!

And that was that, pretty well. A robust exchange of views, then silence. India had a mainly illiterate population, oewspaper circulations were small, their primary content information culled from telegrams and government departments. The institutions, tools and excitements of modern democracy and the modern media had yet to arrive; the demos had yet to be electrified. Gandhi sailed on. His re-

marks about the earthquake became a small footnote in his great biography, as overlooked as that phrase in our insurance documents-"excepting acts of God" - which Gandhi, after all. posed to the scientific outlook had only been trying to explain.

give your loved

GANDHI AND Glenn Hoddle make a mad analogy. Their religious beliefs have little in common. Oddly, Gandhi, who was a sort of Hindu, did oot believe that untouchability was, for the untouchable, a punishment for the sins of a previous life; whereas Hoddle, a sort of Christian, clearly would. All they share is a faith that the supernatural can intervene in buman affairs and that the intervention

can sometimes be punitive. Most of the world used to think this. A lot of it does still. As an explanation for suffering, it may be crude, but it is only that - an explanation. Those who believe it can be just as compassionate - Gandhi for sure, Hoddle by various accounts - as those who do oot. This simple difference between faith and behaviour used to be more widely understood.

Reading and watching the media this week. I could not help thinking how lucky a public figure like Gandhi had been to miss its fickle, orgasmic sensation-

Hulton Getty alism. Every branch is infected. It can no longer be described as a tabloid phenomenon (the only widely available paper to put Hoddle in the sports section was the Herald Tribune). The vomit in the pail slid from side to side. At the beginning of the week, he must go. At the end, he deserves our sympathy. Mr Bloke had arisen, was inescapable in the form of men without proper jobs: David Mellor, Tony Banks, Charlie Whelan.

A desperation is increasingly evident, mainly the desperation of newspapers to sell copies in a uniquely competitive but declining market. Many people feel alienated by it, not least (you may be happy to know) some of those who work in the media. Gandhi, although a political opponent of Britain, was always an admirer of its intelligent, liberal temper which in so many ways had formed his own. This week its replacement by an ignorant. paltry, joyful vindictiveness was a frightening thing.

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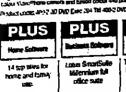
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Dying friend saved me, says climber

By KATE WATSON-SMYTH

A CLIMBER WHO saw his friend die of hypothermia as they lav stranded together on a mountain ridge for six days, said yes-terday that he owed his life to his companion.

Jamie Andrew, who suffered severe frostbite in all his limbs, was plucked by helicopter from a ridge on Les Droites, in the Mont Blanc range on Sunday. Mr Andrew's friend, Jamie

Fisher, 28, died in the freezing emperatures. Speaking from his hospital sed for the first time since his ordeal, Mr Andrew, 29, said:

The one thing that kept us joing was our friendship. "We buoyed each other up. Do several occasions we had to reep each other going to sur-ive Sadly, only I made it."

Mr Andrew, who may have to lave parts of his fingers, ears, ind toes amputated, was too ill o speak before yesterday.

His father, Howard, who flew

ut from the family's home in lasgow to he at his son's bedide in Chamonix, said that his on had been either fully asleep r drowsy for most of the week. But yesterday he had ecovered enough to talk to the oily Record about the accieot and said he was not afraid f amputation. "The loss of my



tained myself. I am not a hero. If anything I am slightly tough. I wanted to get out alive. There is nothing heroic about that."

The two men, who shared a flat in Edinburgh, set off from Chamonix in eastern France 12 days ago. Their aim was to tackle the Droites peak, in the Mont Blanc range.

They were forced to halt on the 13,000ft ridge when they became trapped in a sudden storm which blew up as they tried to descend from the mountain. The men, both experienced climbers, dug a snowhole under their bivouac as temperatures fell to minus 30C and 20ft snow drifts built up.

The alarm was raised in Chamonix but when rescuers attempted to reach the climbers by air, winds gusting

at 85mph or more pushed their aircraft back.

Finally the weather improved ecough for a close approach and a wire was lowered from a helicopter to the mountain ridge and Mr Andrew and his friend's body were

works in the North Sea oil industry, said yesterday that he had not expected to survive the ordeal and praised his rescuers. "The rescue services were incredible. They were totally magnificent and it is a miracle that they managed to get me off at all. They managed an incredible job.
"The conditions were unex-

pectedly bad. I have oever experienced anything as bad for so long. It just didn't stop.
There was nothing we could do
except wait for help to arrive."
Mr Andrew said he did not know if he would be able to climb

again but vowed to remain ac-

tive whatever happened. The two men were regarded as two of Scotland's best climbers and had tackled routes previously thought to be unattainable.

Mr Fisher, who has two brothers, was a care worker with the charity Barnardo's in Edinburgh and, like Mr Andrew, was a former president. of the University of Edinburgh mountaineering club.



Doctors at Chamonix Hospital, who have dealt with similar cases of serious frostbite, are hoping to save Mr Andrew's blackened hands and feet. But be must wait for a few more

days before the full extent of his injuries can be assessed.

"It's a very long process," Mr Andrew said. "I am not trying to deceive myself about the extent of my injuries.

"I know they are bad and I know there are still major hurdles to overcome.

"I've got an awful lot of treatment to undergo. I've got very

I am not in much pain but I can tell it is going to be a very long process. I can't say I am making a recovery apart from the

Retail rages save money

BY EILEEN MURPHY

STORES HAVE been losing up to a quarter of what women shoppers would spend on a trip due to the antics of their male partners trying to get out of the shop, a survey has revealed.

The survey, by retail analysis David J Peck Associates, asked shoppers all over the country what annoyed them most about their partner while shopping.

Women were described as the "driving force" behind most shopping trips but said outings were frequently sabotaged by a bored and disaffected male.

Among the most frequent complaints were men getting annoyed when their partners did not grab the first thing to hand and dash to the cash till. Men were also accused of always wanting to buy the cheapest thing on offer, using traffic and lack of parking to get out of shopping and sulking when they missed football or rugby on the television. Other tricks included putting on a show of "road rage" at the start of the trip to create a bad atmosphere.

Many men got children to support them by reminding them what they could be doing if they were oot shopping, and male partners also made observations that undermined women's confidence when sked for advice, the study said.

The same women said that when their partners offered constructive advice and support they spent as much as 25 per cent more than they intended,

Women's tactics for curtailing a tour of men's shops were far more subtle and emotional. The men told how their partners would complain of tiredness, aching feet and just "not being well" or pretend they were worried about the children or where the car was parked.

The plaintive cry of "Does my burn look big in this?" before complaining about the answer also drove men mad, researchers found. Men also hated having to look at everything in the shop and women disappearing after reaching the . head of the queue to look at something else. But men agreed that if their partners were more supportive they

would spend more. The author David Peek said: "A typical successful strategy was initiated years ago when it was realised that children are serious shopping saboteurs. Retailers introduced play areas, creches and other facilities.

"But now I believe is the time to introduce play areas for grown-ups - imaginative places where the disaffected partner can be parked happily while shopping goes on.

Now it's the technically modified Teletubby

HILDREN IN future will prob- BY CHARLES ARTHUR bly have a diet consisting of hips with everything – in their ys, that is. Playthings are odergoing a revolution. Toiorrow's adults are already etting used to an idea that 9.10 heir parents find strange - of animate objects which reoond to them, based on the sive toy fair in New

in ill see the unverse. Very abbies with built-in procesill see the unveiling of Tele-STE ITS. When a child squeezes ABK 1em, they will giggle or say up Stre 20 different phrases. Meanhile, screens in their bellies

spe in show games or puzzles.
8.25 The new Teletublies are the

Technology Editor

giant, and Itsy Bitsy Entertainment, the US distributor for the toys. "Children will come to consider them their first technological friend," said Itsy Bitsy boss Kenn Viselman.

But such "technological friends" are increasingly common. As the price of computer ork which begins this weekend chips has plummeted in the past two decades, it has become even into toys for the mass market which might only be in fashion for a year or so. Last year saw the Furby, a chipcontrolled doll which mewed The new Teletubbies are the and giggled. A couple of years ago there was Buzz Lightyear, whose chip-generated voice

announced that he was heading "To infinity - and beyond!"

The most noticeable chipcontrolled toy has been Barney, produced by Microsoft's Acti-Mates division. The purple dinosaur can be programmed to react to the TV, s computer and even sites on the Internet. But the Teletubbles will be for a newer generation who will almost be surprised if there isn't a chip in their toy

tioo of computer maniacs. Psychologists reckoo that such toys can be positive for children, because they encourage com-

*Children do a lot of pretend playing, which is very important in early childhood," said Jennifer Smith, a former psychol-

ogy lecturer at Middlesex University who specialists in early learning. "Even with 8 toy that doesn't speak, you'll see a child pretend that their teddy bear is talking back to them, holding imaginary conversations."

With toys which do react to the child, "they take the idea on board very rapidly." Dr Smith said. But they also soon realise that there is a limited range of interaction, that some phrase has come up before. Eventually, that toy will go to the place where all the others do."

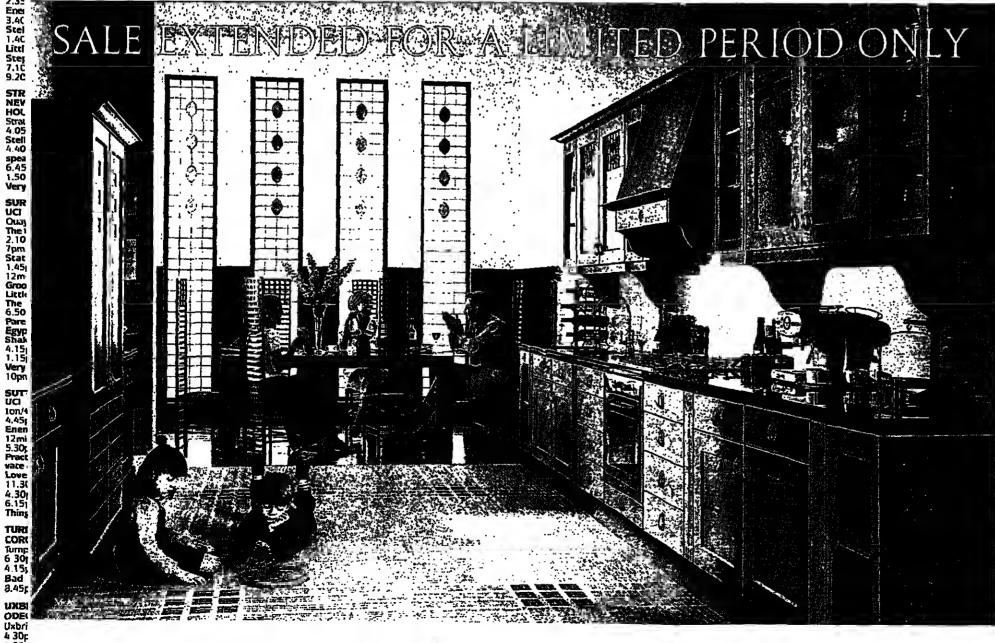
The pressure to go electronic is also affecting traditional toys. Lego, the Danish company best known for its toy bricks, announced last month that it was cutting a tenth of its 10,000 workforce worldwide, as

the huge growth in computer games has put pressure on sales of plastic bricks that don't do anything if left on their own. To today's child, that can seem a tad dull

To counter that, the company last summer launched its Mindstorms "programmable bricks" aimed at children aged over 12. Designed with the help of professors at the Mass chusetts Institute of Technology, the bricks could be programmed from a computer. Lego intends to follow that up with programmable bricks that do not need a computer: they will store their own list of activities. "I think we will see chips built in to more and more toys," said a spokesman for



The original version of the Teletubbies toys



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Madchester flares up again as Mondays hit the road

BY PAUL MCCANN AND RHYS WILLIAMS

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Retail

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SIX YEARS after they packed up their baggy flares in a whirl of street drugs and recriminations, the Happy Mondays are back. The Hacienda may be closed and the quality of ecstasy diminished, but the fast turnaround of musical trends means the band is reforming to cash in on "Madchester" nostalgia just six years after it split up,

The Mondays, with the Stone Roses and the Hacienda nightclub, were the epicentre of the Madchester or "baggy" scene. A fusion of ecstasy, Acid House beats, rock music and some of the worst haircuts seen in Britain since the Plantagenets, the Madchester phenomenon peaked between 1989 and 1992. It even made the

cover of Time magazine. Then, like all youth trends, it was quickly gone, leaving behind some great music, a bastard child called "Britpop" and some very frazzled brain cells.

Infamous lead singer Shaun Ryder has decided to reform the band for financial reasons. The former heroin and crack



Their eponymous debut afoum sold 500,000 copies and they are credited with originating the "Madchester" sound. A second album took five years to record and disappointed. Lead man lan Brown, recently jailed for "air rage"; now solo. John Squires is in the Seahorses; bass player Gary 'Mant' Mounfield left to John Primal Scream.

addict faces a large tax bill and

his last band, Black Grape,

date tour starting in Manches-

ter in April. If the gigs go well,

more are planned. The group

has yet to decide whether to

The band will play a four-

split acrimoniously in 1997.

Gaz Whelan, backing vocalist Rowetta and new members Wags – from Shaum's last group, Black Grape – and a rapper called Nuts, Mark "Bez" Berry will provide dancing and a show on, play some tunes, and hope it sounds good," said Mr Ryder yesterday. "Hopefully the tour will be rock and roll. If

HAPPY MONDAYS

Formed in 1984 in Manchester.
Disbanded early 1993. Reforming financial reasons with the Ryder brothers Shaun and Paul, drummer

it turns into rock and Status Quo we'll have to finish it." Shaun's brother, Paul Ryder, and the drummer, Gaz Whelan, make a new album: "We'll put are playing on the tour, and INSPIRAL CARPETS

away without a record deal, rathe than splitting up in actimony like others from the scene. They were defined by their Hammond organ sound, so it is not surprising that the organist. Clint Boon, is the only one with a solo career.

backing vocalist, Rowetta, is

back. But the guitarist, Mark

Day, and the keyboard player,

Paul Davis, are no longer in the

band. Crucially Mark "Bez"

Berry, the band's non-singing,

non-musical mascot, who

merely walked around on stage

with his hood up, will be joining



CHARLATANS

Formed in Cheshire in late 1989 as a quintet. Number one with first album. Still Intact. with the exception of the keyboard player. Rob Collins, who died in a car crash in 1995. The band had a number-one album as late as 1995, long after the death of the baggy scene. Last year's album produced two hits, "North Country Boy" and "The Only One I Know".

down its record label, Factory

Records - another key com-

ponent in the Madchester

cause it was the first time that

rock music embraced dance

culture," says John Molvey,

deputy editor of the music mag-

"Their legacy is massive be-



The band came out of the Madchester baggy scene but was much closer to the rave culture of the "Summer of Love". Techno-raverock; once described as "Tangerine Dream on speed". Their song "Parinc State" became one of the anihems of 1989. They have survived as remix artists and are still regulars at events such as Tribal Gathering.

azine, NME. "From being pro-

nounced dead by the cogno-

scente of the house scene, rock

embraced dance and dance

a new spin on the old rock 'n'

"Music pundits need char

"The Mondays also provided

embraced rock.



Although their existence pre-dates Madchester, their lift-off single, "Sit Down" - complete with flowery T-shirts and baggy trousers - came smack in the middle. After a brief but dangerous illitration with stadium rock on their Seven album, they rediscovered their roots after teaming up with Brian Eno for Land. Still together, shill very successful

acters to renew old articles of

John McKie, the editor of

faith and refresh old values.

Smash Hits, said: "Baggies will

Mondays with uncontained

gice, although the under-20s will

probably wonder what all the

fuss is about."

greet the reformation of the

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the tour. Shaun Ryder claims

Bez asked for £50,000. "We got

him down to £500. Well, £500 and

lapsed in March 1993 when in-

fighting, prodigious drug

consumption and a chaotical-

ly recorded final album brought

The Happy Mondays col-

Teachers to boycott appraisal , system

THE LARGEST teachers' union BY BEN RUSSELL yesterday threatened a series of rolling one-day strikes over the proposed "payment by results" and warned that its members would boycott per-

formance appraisals next year. Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of sively, targets and results". Teachers, said the union would "MoT" tests for teachers being turned into a way of imposing performance-related pay.

The National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT) also threatened a boycott of the annual appraisal, claiming yes-. terday that it would "swamp

schools with bureaucracy". Mr McAvoy said: "If the Government is determined to ignore the views of teachers, it will antagonise teachers. There could be half-day action, one-day or rolling strikes in the hope that between September this year and September next year the Government will change its position."

Nigel de Gruchy, the general secretary of NASUWT, said the union would negotiate over the changes, but warned: "It is prudent to prepare plans to defend teachers against the totally unmanageable impositions which seem, unfortunately, to be emerging from the Green and technical papers. If that can only be achieved by direct action, then so be it."

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Headteachers and employers also attacked the proposals as unworkable, while the other major classroom unions hardened their position.

Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said: "I think that there will be widespread civil disobedience in schools unless the Government listens to the teachers' points of view. The Tower of London is not big enough to contain all

David Blunkett, the Secre-

Education Correspondent

tary of State for Education, said the Government was proposing a "modern performance system, based on a range of factors including, but not exclu-

Writing in The Times Edu-"Most parents - and teachers - would rightly say that teachers should, can and do make a big difference to the achievement of their pupils."

At stake is the most fundateachers are assessed and paid for 100 years. Under the proposals, teachers will only progress up the pay scale if they pass an annual appraisal by their head teacher. To pass, teachers must be judged against annual targets, both for their own work and the exam performance of their pupils.

Once teachers get to the top of the classroom pay-scale, currently £23,000, they can apply to take a tougher test to pass a performance and pay "threshold". Headteachers will recommend who should pass, but nationally trained assessors will have the final say.

Teachers who pass stand to gain a 10 per cent pay rise, and access to salaries up to £40,000. But they will have to sign new on the length of the working year. According to the Green Paper, a majority will pass, but a "sub-stantial minority" will not.

Senior government sources said it would be "extraordinary for a teachers' union to suggest to its members that they should oppose arrangements which would enable them to gain a pay increase of around £2,000 a

"Effectively, a union which aims to block this appraisal system is telling its members they should settle for lower pay."

togethe one **toan** one **rate**

Council workers reject 2% rise

LEADERS OF 1.4 million local By ALAN JONES government workers vesterday rejected a 2 per cent pay

offer, branding it "derisory." Union officials turned down

the opening offer from council employers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in response to a claim for a 5 per cent or £500 increase, whichever was greater. Further talks will be held on 23 February ahead of an April settlement date.

Virginia Branney, deputy head of local government for Unison, the public sector workers' union, said: "This is a disgraceful and derisory offer

which the trade union side has rejected. We urge the employers to think again." Mick Graham, head of local

government for the GMB general workers' union, said: "The offer is completely unacceptable in the light of the pay awards announced earlier this week for other public-sector workers." A spokesman for the em-

ployers said the offer would add 2260m to the pay bill, and added that under a previous agreement workers' hours will be cut from 39 to 37 from April.





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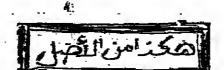
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The animal liberationist with attitude

MARY FRETWELL seems a very nice woman. At first, She is 58 and has been a career wife and mother for most of her life. She is well-connected. Her husband was Our Man in Paris for some time. She even owns a basset hound named Claude.

But first impressions can be misleading. This is the woman who has changed the Government's mind about rabies and quarantine. This is the woman who, four years ago, started Passports for Pets, which now boasts 10,000 members.

It does oot take long to decide that Lady Fretwell may indeed be nice and even rather fun, but most of all she is formidable. She suggests alternative descriptions for her fight to change the quarantine laws. Determined? Persistent? Her secretary mentions indefatigable. "Legitimacy is impor-tant," says Lady Fretwell. "I don't want to be thought of as a dear old hiddy, a sort of dogooder on animal rights." The chances of this are zero. Soon I find myself agreeing with her It seems impossible not to.

She also seems to have this effect on the Ministry for Agriculture, Last autumn, a minister told the House he had been advised that any change in the system could not take place until, perhaps, 2002. "Three years!" said Lady Fretwell. "It could be done in three months!" And now, the word is that a pilot vaccination scheme could be in place by the end of this year. In political terms this is faster than the speed of light.

"They know that it is not going to go away. I mean it is just not! We started off like a little midge, being annoying. Now we are thousands of little midges, annoying everybody

all over the place. Lady Fretwell laughs, as she does all of the time. She is BY ANN TRENEMAN

lends me a horse," she says, as if this is the most natural thing in the world.

She says one secret of success is never have a committee. and, if you must have one, make sure it does not meet. Passport's office is in the basement of her Wandsworth home, which is a rather grand affair. I press a bell originally marked "servants" to get in. This puts the basset into a frenzy. "He's loud. He's a rescue. Ignore him," says Lady Fretwell.

Her enemies are not gracious. "Everyone thinks the sun shines out of her backside. All this praising, praising!" says Guy Tamplin of the Quarantine Kennels Owners' Association. "But what is success? She's made herself a massive publicity icon. But she hasn't dealt in the truth."

This would make Lady Fretwell snort. She says that Passports for Pets has to be meticulously accurate in everything it does. At one point she notes how careful she is when people telephone about smuggling pets. "I'm interested in changing the law, not hreaking it. We always say that. I'm worried about the kennels calling up and recording."

But she is also realistic about her opponents' clout. One of the first things she did was hire a political lobbyist. She has used democracy for all that it is worth. No MP has escaped letters on this subject. Passports for Pets members are relentless constituents. If they do not like the MP's response, they go to

his or her surgery. Lady Fretwell has the obsessiveness of a campaigner who believes her cause is right, both morally and scientifically. She says originally she had seen quarantine as just anothhusband from Paris and put

nel. "They told me not to visit. They do this. They are sneaky buggers! So I didn't. After two months I had a dream. And I never dream. Something said, get up and go. Thank God I did. That dog had given up. Its paws were bleeding and its bark gone. I would go as often as I could and crawl into its cage, sit with it and give it a bone.

The dog survived but she did not forget the experience. In 1994 she heard that a select committee had come out in support of changing the quar-antine system. She phoned her friends and told them to write to their MPs. A few said they should meet. They enlisted "a lord, a vet and a bit of money for the cause. They printed notepaper. They were off. She thought it would take

eight mooths but the Tory cabinet then quashed the reform We had started, so we continued," Lady Fretwell said. She sees this as a battle and says you always have to watch left, right and centre to see what the opposition is doing. She got the vets to form a group - Vets for a Change - and does their paperwork. The RSPCA used to be against changing the system. So when people called Pass-ports for Pets in tears - as many do when faced with the prospect of quarantine - she passed them on to the RSPCA, In the end, the RSPCA had another look at the issue. Now

they campaign together. Politically, Passports seems rather savvy. Last year, for instance. Labour announced it had appointed a committee to look at the quarantine issue. The names were announced at 10pm. Lady Fretwell said there were no experts and, worse, one man on the committee was against change. By 9am a dossier of this man's public pronouncements was in front of really do think he was very, very grateful," she says. "Otherwise he would have had egg on his Brown saying he had never thought, that's it, mate! I'll get around as 'spouse of' Which I



Lady Fretwell (with Claude): Politically savvy, well-organised, persistent and fun, And formidable Tom Pilston

face." The committee was ex- said three years. Lady Fretwell panded to include two experts.

Then the committee recommended change hut said it would require primary legislation - which meant a three-year delay. Passports swung into action. More letters to MPs. A firm of parliamentary solicitors was commissioned to write a report. Passports asked a sympathetic MP to set up a meeting on this with the Agri-RSPCA, last month, with Mr approves of this - and of him.

She doesn't allow herself to be bullied, "They have tried," she said. One yet at the ministry once took her aside and told her to stop all this nonsense. She told him not to get so excited. Nor does she forgive and forget. She crows over the election defeat of one pro-quarantine MP Sheremembers with real anger That took place, with the missed a question she had asked about guide dogs. "I

you! To do that to the blind! It's enjoyed. I had a very, very, very disgraceful. Just to protect the enjoyable life. Then coming quarantine kennels.

Her husband, Sir John, comes into the room. He is retired now and really this is the first time Mary has worked. She takes no pay hut certainly puts in the hours. Tsay that, in some ways, they have changed roles. Mary: "At my age it is sort of

bizarre, isn't it?"----John. 'I must say that this

out her." Mary: "For 30 years I weot

back here, I got more and more

involved in this. In a sense, you

are supporting me now" John: "I introduce myseli as 'spouse of' now." Mary: "It is extraordinary how one can swap without any difficulty. But it has evolved.

hasn't it? John is even getting better at putting things in the dishwasher."

See what I mean? Nice. But

Sainsbury's shop."

Football disaster legal bill disputed

By MARK WILKINSON

THE FAMILIES of the people who died in the Hillsborough disaster vesterday called on police chiefs to stop funding the legal costs of two former officers facing private prosecution over the deaths.

South Yorkshire Police Authority initially opted to finance the defence costs of former Chief Superintendent David Duckenfield and former Superintendent Bernard Murray, But the Merseyside-based Hillsborough Families Support Group - which is hringing the private prosecution – has chal-lenged the decision, saying it is

Sheffield MPs Clive Betts and Heleo Jackson have also expressed their concern about the payment of the legal fees amid fears that the final hill could run into millions of

Critics say that money diverted to defend the officers would otherwise be available for day-to-day policing in South Yorkshire. The police authority met yesterday lo discuss

Both Mr Duckenfield and Mr Murray - the two have retired from the force - are accused of unlawful killing and wilful neglect of public duty.

Mr Duckenfield is also accused of intent to pervert the course of justice by lying about the circumstances in which a gate at the ground was opened on the day of the disaster

As well as the possible expense of a judicial review in the High Court, four weeks has been set aside for a committal hearing at Leeds magistrates' court in April. If the case continues to a lengthy Crown Court trial, the total legal hill could run into millions of pounds.

The Hillsborough Family Support Group, which has set aside £500,000 for its costs, has already asked the district auditor to investigate the legality of the police authority's decision to fund the defence costs.

The disaster happeoed in fans lost their lives at the FA Cup semi-final match against Nottingham Forest

Send a Valentine message to your loved one and you could WIN a weekend for two at Grayshott Hall

'in the Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love', wrote Alfred Lord Tennyson, and once again this year The Independent will be publishing your romantic, mysterious, funny and just plain daft messages to your loved one (and of course you don't have to be young or a man to include). In time for Valentine's Day we will send on your behalf an anonymous card telling the recipient to look for his/her personal message in The Independent on Sunday.

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Citizen Blair leads mob as Tory shadows fade away

IT WAS A wretched week for parliamentary democracy which began with the Prime Minister determined to forsake the Commons Punch and Judy show for the soft sofa of the Richard and Judy televi-

Fed up with MPs and lobby journalists pestering him with trivial questions about politics, he was determined that the country should focus attention on the great issues which concern him: namely how his children are coping; his Seychelles holiday snapshots; the welfare of Humphrey the retired Downing Street cat; and his views on Glenn Hoddle.

John Major, rather than William Hague, most effectively punctured the Prime Minister's attempts at governing by mob rule, pointing out that the Government never misses any target if it can deliver an easy headline.

"If there is a moh mentality the Government will put themselves at the head of that in order to garner a headline or two," Mr Major said.

THE DEBATE on the House of Lords Bill, lasting two days, was thinly attended and, for the most part, dull. Proceedings were enlivened by the speech of Tony Benn (Lab, Chesterfield) who shocked the House when he pulled out of his pocket a phial of his own blood.

Forty years ago he was expelled from the House on the

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grounds that he was disquali-

fied when he inherited a peer-

age from his father, Viscount

tion court where two judges declared a hereditary peerage

was "an incorporeal heredita-

ment affixed in the blood and

Benn was so curious he went

and had some blood taken out

"I still have it, although I am

afraid it is clotted now", he said,

brandishing the offending item

The absence of Tony Blair

(and William Hague) from any

of the proceedings was com-

pensated for by the return to

before MPs.

Mr Benn was sent to an elec-

SIR EDWARD stole the show from the Tory front bench in a remarkable speech of clarity providing the only concrete alternative to the Government's proposals.

Playing up to both the gallery and his advancing ears, he emulated Harold Macmillan by using dramatic pauses. Just when everyone thought he was too decrepit to remember what to say next he stunned his own side by calling for the Lords to be elected. - I think I heard a great gasp

On hearing that Sir Edward had only created 48 life peers in his three-and-a-half years as prime minister compared with Mr Blair's 105 in less than two years, Andrew Mackinlay (Lab, Thurrock) dubbed him "the people's prime minister".

of breath behind me."

John Major (score: 171 life peers) complained that many former Tory MPs were so keen to go to the House of Lords that they promised to turn up annexed to the posterity". Mr morning, noon and night and even on Sundays: "No sooner are their bottoms on the red leather benches than they zip off somewhere else and turn up

As Mr Major spoke, sheepishly gazing down at him from FRANK FIELD (Lab, Birkenthe Public Gallery were none other than Lords Archer and

The Paymaster-General, Dawn Primarolo, whose chic image is being complemented by a flak jacket

Lamont. The worst offender is John Moore (remember him?) who was once tipped to be Tory leader and was Mrs Thatcher's secretary of state for social security. Raised to the peerage seven years ago, as Lord Moore of Lower Marsh, he has yet to make his maiden speech in the upper chamber.

head) again stuck the knife into the Government's pension pro-

a confession. Before he came into the chamber he had received a message that his new pager was waiting in the Government Whip's Office. This was to be the last social security debate in which he would participate without one. Should I go off-message dur-

ing this debate it will be unintentional but I will not be able to plead that in future," he said. Thankfully Mr Field pro-

posals but began his speech in the Tory-initiated debate with to the Government. At one to the Government. At one stage there was nobody on the Tory front bench, even though the debate was being held in their time.

> BARONESS THATCHER, as befits the Iron Lady, wore the metaphorical shield of Britannia. Michael Heseltine, to the delight of Spitting Image, frequently waltzed around military bases in a flak-jacket,

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and, until recently, Gordon Brown had Charlie Whelan to protect him; but no one has yet felt it necessary for Treasury ministers to seek body armour protection. Until now.

The new Paymaster-General, Dawn Primarolo, has been officially issued with a "ballistic undervest". The normally chic Miss Primarolo is shortly to attend the European Community Monitoring Mission in Sarajevo, The Foreign Office minister Baroness

Symons of Vernham Dean told Parliament that the Government has issued a licence for the export by Miss Primarolo of the less-than-elegant underwear to Bosnia "in view of the obvious need for the mission to be able to protect its staff". If only Miss Primarolo's predecessor, Geoffrey Robinson, had had such a garment to protect him while he was at the Treasury maybe he would still be there today.

DOWNING STREET'S Chief Spin Doctor, Alastair Campbell, has been drawing lobby correspondents' attention to an article written in the New Nation by Steve Pope, who followed the partiamentary ratpack's coverage of Tony Blair's visit to South Africa.

"A bigger bunch of middleclass, public school, arrogant, smug, patronising, cynical, nasty, self-important merchant bankers you'd be hard-pressed to find," wrote Mr Pope.

All that will now change with the emergence this week of The Independent's Chief Political Correspondent, the secondary-modern-educated Colin Brown, as chairman of the lobby. Colin's principal task in this powerful role is to chair the twice-daily press briefings and brawlings between the lobby and Mr Campbell.

His first promise to Mr Campbell will be: "I was elected as new lobby; I shall



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SNP is seeking 'divorce from UK'

TONY BLAYR yesterday launched one of his fiercest attacks yet on the Scottish National Party, accusing it of a "dishonest" approach.

Speaking in Glasgow, the Prime Minister said that Scots faced a choice between "devolation or divorce" in the Scottish Parliament elections, to be held on 6 May. He went on to accuse the SNP of treating social justice as secondary to national identity, and of "proclaiming patriotism" instead of policies.

"You cannot evade choices about Scotland's future by wrapping yourselves in Scot-land's flag," the Prime Minister said. "For there is at the heart of the SNP's approach the dishonest assertion that anyone who scrutinises the SNP is seeking to subjugate Scotland.

"It is wrong for any political party to claim that it and it alone speaks for the nation and that for any of its political opponents to question that party is for them to attack the nation." The Prime Minister's attack

was delivered as he addressed an audience of Labour candidates and supporters at the Music and Drama during a day of engagements in Glasgow. Despite advance protesta-

tions by Mr Blair that he and Labour were not merely crudely "Nat bashing", the SNP re-mained firmly in the party's sights yesterday. Arriving in Glasgow, Mr

Blair's first engagement was to unveil a campaign poster which, in huge headlines, shrieked "Divorce is an ex-pensive business. It won't be a trial separation with the SNP". "On 7 May one of two things

will happen," said the Prime Minister "Scottish New Labour will go to work for a stronger health service, better schools and a prosperous economy. Or the SNP will file for divorce from the rest of Britain."

Mr Blair went on: "The demake is whether this election will be remembered as devnlution day or divorce day."

BY JOE QUINN He accused the nationalists of being more interested in "the trappings of the nation state", and more interested in national anthems than the

national health service. Their embition is not that the devolved parliament succeeds but that the devolved parliament fails." Mr Blair said.

"At root, they remain a party of protest, not a party of power" The nationalists had a clearer idea of how to increase Scotland's taxes than how to increase Scotland's prosperity. said Mr Blair in an attack on the SNP's economic plans. "The SNP began as the party of division. They would take office as the party of divorce. They would end as a government of

economic decline." Labour, by contrast, offered the vision of renewal on the basis of shared values that made Scotland stronger with Britain and Britain stronger with Scotland.

The SNP's leader, Alex Salmond, greeted Mr Blair's visit to Scotland by attack the Government's record on public spending. Speaking in Glasgow, Mr Salmond said: Tony Blair talks about delivering, hut what London Labour are actually delivering is cuts in our vital services.

"At the end of the three years of the Comprehensive Spending Review, spending in Scotland will still be lower than it was under the Tories. The squeeze that Labour is imposing on Scottish public spending will leave Scots much worse off over the next few years, relative to the rest of the UK.

Mr Salmond said Scotland's health service would be £500m better off over the next three years if it received the same percentage increases in spending that apply in England.

"Instead of Nat bashing and talking Scotland dram. Tony land to explain why key public services are being run down by Labour mismanagement.

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'If the Kosovo talks don't work, then we'll all join the KLA'

BY RAYMOND WHITAKER in Lausa, Kosovo

"HE'S SCARED to sit next to me because I'm in the Kosovo Liberation Army," Gani Gecaj, 31, jeers at his brother, Fadil. "He wants peace in Kosovo, but be's scared to sit next to me." Thirty-eight-year-old Fadil shrugs equably: that's Gani for

Many families will recognise the relationship - the passionate younger sibling, always bursting to break in when anyone else is talking, and his more philosophical senior, who recognises that allowances must be made.

In Kosovo, however, where ethnic Albanians such as the Gecaj family are struggling to break free of Serbian domination, such differences are a matter of life and death.

The bearded, loud-voiced Gani is in Kosovo Liberatioo Army (KLA) uniform, his rifle across his knees. He boasts of having taken part in the group's first-ever attack on the Serbs, the shooting of a policeman in

Fadil, clean-shaven and in civilian dress, is a leading member in his district of the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK). the main Albanian political party, which has consistently advocated a peaceful solution to the conflict in the Serb-ruled

The debate between them will be mirrored at the château of Rambouillet, oear Paris, where the international community has summoned the Serbs and the Albanians today to reach a settlement.

Fadil supports the LDK line. which is to act as though the Serbs have already given up their rule in Kosovo. The party held a referendum in 1991 that overwhelmingly called for independence and conducted elections, using private homes as polling stations, in which Kosovo's 90 per cent Albanian majority chose Ibrahim Rugova, the LDK leader, as their

But the Serbs did not go away and the KLA emerged take a more direct and bloody route to independence. Its attacks provoked a massive Serbian response last year that devastated the province, killing more than 2,000 people and driving bundreds of thousands more from their bomes. But they also did more to persuade the rest of the world to intervene than all the LDK's years of natient attempts at negotia-

There are two ways to solve this problem." says Fadil. "The KLA chose a short cut, while the LDK took a step-by-step ap-



Philosophical Fadil (left) and passionate Gani Gecaj at home in Lausa, where the Kosovo Albanians explain their differences and fundamental solidarity David Rose

proach which avoids fighting." We tried that way for years," Gani cuts in, "but we got

"We have the same aim," says his brother ever the peacemaker. "It is true that the from the shadows in 1997 to KLA made things go faster." Both are bleary-eyed - they

admit that they were up until

3am, arguing over exactly the same groun To reach the Gecaj brothers, you swing off Kosovo's main east-west highway into the

Drenica district, the province's poorest and the worst-damaged in last year's Serbian offensive. Passing the town of Srbica ("Little Serbia"), known to the Albanians as Skenderaj, you reach Lausa, or rather the ruins of the village.

Here the Gecaj clan has its compound, which is as devas- head looked like this thing

low, newly constructed house, where the freshly plastered walls are still damp. Fadil and Gani have five other brothers - Halil, 43, who is in Albania; Haxbi, 34, who is in the room but says little, taking what is clearly a familiar role of listening to the others; Nebi, 26,

who sends money from Ger-

and 22, who have also joined the "This family is famous," says the local school head. "They have always fought for the free-

dom of Albanians." So oppressive was Serbian rule that Fadil spent 18 months in prison a few years ago for referring to Srbica as Skenderaj

in the bearing of a policeman. "They beat him until his

here," says Gani, indicating the battered wood-burning stove, "and he still chooses peace? That's when I thought that I'd rather go and fight."

There is little room for moderates in this conflict, and even Facil has a pistol strapped to his hip. "People didn't want to fight in places like Prekaz [scene of many; and Nehat and Esat, 24 in Kosovo, late last year] but the war was imposed on them," be says. "That's the only reason I

> Gani cannot resist another jibe: "When the shells were falling on Lausa, they didn't distinguish between the LDK and the KLA." But he adds, more seriously: "War was imposed on me too. I could live better than this: we have a family importexport business as well as the

farming. I could take my wife

and children to Germany: we have residence rights there. But I have chosen to stay and ing: "The biggest problem we

Both brothers know what they want from the Rambouillet talks - independence for Kosovo – but this is not on offer. peither from the Serbian government of Slobodan Milosevic the first massacre of civilians nor from the six-nation "contact group" which has organised the

Fadil, needless to say, is more optimistic. "We are going to show that Albanians know how to be united," he says. "We have a state structure already in place, and now we have international support for it."

"That's just your opinion," retorts Gani. "The KLA doesn't recognise your structure. That is not the reality."

"It doesn't matter that we

are brothers," Fadil sums up. "We see this differently." Haxhi at last speaks up, say-

have are these two. They are always arguing But for all their long-contested differences, fraternal solidarity counts most, not only for the Gecaj brothers but for all of Kosovo's Albanians wheo it comes to Serbian rule, and Fadil's final words serve as a

Rambouillet is a failure. "This time, we hope the West and the international community as a whote will find a sotution leading to independence for Kosovo," he says.

warning of what will happen if

"If there is no solution this way, we will all join the KLA." At last the brothers are in agreement. "I also hope for the same thing," says Gani.

"We are part of Europe, and if we must, we will fight to join

International monitors in Kosovo were trying yesterday to defuse a stand-off in Srbica, 18 miles west of Pristina, where Serbian police were trying to enter rebel territory to investigate a robbery at a Serbian

Orthodox monastery. About eight armoured vehicles were prepared to move to the mooastery of Devic, where thieves three days ago made off with farm equipment. KLA rebels refused to let them enter.

ganisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, said that a firefight broke out on Thursday when police tried to approach the monastery, home to nine Serbian nuns.

Andreas Kern, of the Or-

Briton to lead Nato troops

BY JOHN DAVISON

BRITISH TROOPS will play a dominant role in the large Nato ground force which allied countries plan to deptoy in Kosovo to enforce any peace deal.

From the multinational formation of some 35,000 troops. Britain will contribute about 8,000, equipped with tanks. armoured vehicles and artillery. It is also likely to provide the officer in overall command and most of the command structure.

The whole force will be deployed under Nato's Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), Its beadquarters, in Rheindahlen. Germany, would relocate to Kosovo.

ARRC is commanded by Lieutenant-General Sir Mike Jackson, and about half of the 1.000 headquarters staff are British. It would be supported by a further 2,000 British troops, mainly from 1 Signals Brigade

Lt-Gen Jackson is a former

Parachute Regiment cour mander and has valuable experience in former Yugoslavia. He commanded the British contingent of the Nato Imple mentation Force Hort when it was sent to Bosnia in 1995. The remaining British con-

tribution will be built around the 4 Armoured Brigade, based at Osnabruck in Germany, together with artillery, engineers and togistic support. All have been placed on 72 hours' notice

Plans provide for the bulk of troops to start arriving in Kosovo about 10 days after a deal is signed. The Scrb delegation to the Rambouillet talks, however, has said it would oppose any Nato ground troops being stationed on its soil.

If the force does go, the first British soldiers into Kosovo are likely to be from the King's Own Royal Border Regiment, which already has a reinforced armoured infantry company with Warrior fighting vehicles near Skopje in Macedonia.

They are part of the 2,300 strong extraction force, under French command, there to facilitate the emergency evacuation of unarmed mooitors now in Kosovo on behalf of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Units from 4 Armoured Brigade placed on standby are: the King's Royal Hussars. equipped with Challenger main battle tanks and Scimitar reconnaissance light tanks; an armoured battalion of the Irish Guards; and a company of the Green Howards, both also with Warriors.

The last chance to avoid all-out war

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

THE KOSOVO peace conference due to start in Rambouillet today is probably the last chance to avoid a war in the Serbian province, which Western teaders fear could spread across the southern Balkans.

The talks between senior Serb and Yugoslav officials and political and military leaders of Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority wilt be chaired by the British Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, and Hubert Vedrine, the French Foreign Minister. The delegates have been given a fortnight to agree a settlement based on a draft plan drawn up by the US envoy Christopher Hill. granting Kosovo wide autonomy for an interim period of three years.

But no member of the sixnation Contact Group of teading powers, which has convoked the conference, is mountain to climb." Mr Cook said yesterday. There is no guarantee of success, and even if a deal is reached, tens of thousands of Nato ground troops will be needed to make it stick.

An early sign of how difficult things could be came as local Serb officials reportedly refused to permit delegates from the Kosovo Liberation Army to enter the airport at Pristina ernment spokesman said Paris will be pulling the strings from was ready to send a military Belgrade.



Rugova: Non-violent path

plane to make sure participants arrived in time.

The conference - very much a test case for Europe's hopes of forging a stronger diplomatic and military identity - will be opened by President Jacques Chirac. Modelled in part on the Dayton talks which brought under any illusion. "We have a peace to Bosnia in 1995, the discussions are likely to begin as "proximity" talks, mediated by Mr Hill, before developing into fully fledged negotiations.

Officially, the Serb/Yugoslav delegation will be led by the Serbian Deputy Prime Minister, Ratko Markovic, and his opposite number in the federal Yugoslav government, Nikola Sainovic. Both are trusted aides of President Stobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia, who, though for the talks. A French gov- oot present in Rambouillet,

The Albanian team includes Ibrahim Rugova, political leader of the ethnic Albanians, as well as Azem Syla, said to be a top commander of the KLA, and Jakup Krasniqi, a KLA spokesman and former sup-porter of Mr Rugova's nonviolent path to independence, who switched his support to the movement's military wing.

Rivalry between Mr Rugova

and the KLA is but one problem bedevilling the talks. Even if they find a common voice, there remains the abyss separating the ethnic Albanians' demand for independence and Belgrade's insistence that Kosovo remains a part of Serbia. Nor is it certain that the Serbs will accept Nato peacekeepers on Yugoslav territory.

The Nato force is expected to total between 20,000 and 30,000 men, with the largest contingents provided by Britain and France. Its precise makeup will depend on the size of the Yugoslav security force left in Kosovo after any settlement.

The abortive ceasefire deal negotiated by Richard Holbrooke last October permitted Belgrade to station 10,000 interior ministry troops, with three companies on pairol at any one time, to protect communications. But those terms were bonoured only in the breach. "If Belgrade pulls out a lot of troops, and a credible Kosovo police force is set up. then the Nato force could be smaller," ooe diplomat said.

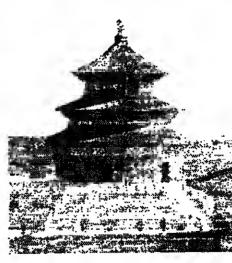
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routes on a quiet, residential so Facilities: Breakfast room on the reception level, small public identifications area with Chesterfield sofas.

ant from £105 / 2nts from £155 e.g. Hotel Trinite Place The fine arts prints in the fainte Plaza compliment the tasterial modern decor. This hotel stands in a quiet in the close to mange of shops, restaurants and this safe. not far from the lively Moutin Range Location: Situated behind the Galerie Lafayette, around 51 walk to the Opera. Facilities: Bar, two lounges

prints of racehorses adorning the walls leave guests in little doubt of Location: Right next door to the

Opera Gamier and the Grands '-Boulevards, near the Place Vendome and the exquisite shops of Faubourg-Sc-Honore. Facilities: Iritimate bar, gourmet restaurant: coffee shop, traditionally furnished, stylish

bedrooms with satellite TV. airconditioning, minibar, telephone. safety deposit box and hairdryer.

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Mandela bids farewell to parliament

PRESIDENT NELSON Mandela yesterday began the process of hidding farewell as leader of 42 million South Africans with a call for a "new patriotism" to counter the merchants of cynicism and despair" who are the enemies of reconciliation

In his opening speech to the final session of parliament in Cape Town before his retirement at the next election, President Mandela conceded some failings of the African National Congress government but underlined that "the foundation has been laid - the huilding is in progress".

Summing up the five years since he became the first democratically elected president of South Africa, Mr Mandela said: "For a country that was the polecat of the world ... the doors of the world have opened precisely because of our success in achieving things that humanity as a whole holds dear. Of this we should be proud."

Confounding the "merchants of despair", Mr Mandela listed the government's achievements - water in 80 per cent of homes, 63 per cent of households connected to the electricity grid and 1:3 million new telephones.

He said the 700,000 houses huilt or under construction fell short of the government's target of one million but boasted that old age pensions had been increased by 4 per cent this year and A-level results were improving.

The President - who will be succeeded by his deputy, Thabo Mbeki, after elections in which the ANC is certain to secure a majority - had been expected to announce a poll date between 18 and 27 May.

However, as President Mandela began speaking yesterday, Mr Mbeki handed him a note, presumed to have equested that he excise the

By ALEX DUVAL SMITH in Cape Town

National Party is bringing a high court case against the ANC over alleged irregularities in voter registration. The case could delay the election.

President Mandela conceded that "difficult areas" were crime, corruption and unemployment but omitted xenophobia - a growing concern. He also rounded on critics who focus on the negative aspects of the new South Africa. "We slaughter one another in the stereotypes and mistrust that linger in our



Thabo Mbeki: Doubt over date of the next election

heads and the words of hate we spew from our lips," he said. "We slaughter one another and our country by the manner in which we exaggerate its weaknesses to the wider world."

"The critical act of reconciliation is the dismantling of what remains of apartheid practices and attitudes. Reconciliation, without this major step, will be transient, the ode of false hope on the lips of fools," he said.

President Mandela's 80minute speech to a packed, multi-coloured parliament ranging from grey suits on the opposition benches to saris and bright African dresses on

its main message on the Rainbow Nation spirit that he has come to embody. Even though the 80-year-old President wore a dark suit rather than one of the hright shirts he favours, in other respects the setting obliged. There was African dancing outside the parliament building and ululating as MPs and guests arrived, as if

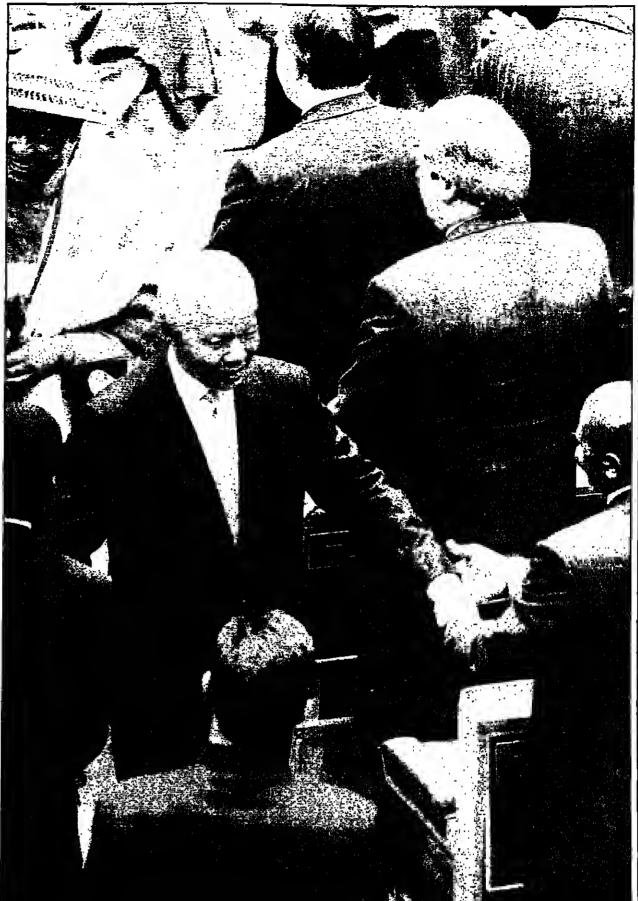
for a fashion show. Charlie Tambo, the flamboyant television presenter son of the late anti-apartheid militant Oliver Tambo, posed with his white wife, Rachel, who was wearing a bright red traditional Xhosa dress.

One National Party MP, Isak van Zyl, and his daughter Carina, wore the 19th-century outlits of the Afrikaner voortrekkers. He said: "I think Afrikaners should wear their traditional outfits just as the Xhosa and Zulus do."

But the Rainbow Nation spirit contrasted sharply with the overwhelmingly humourless mood of the grey-suited opposition benches of the New National Party and the Freedom Front. At one point, President Mandela, in calling for South Africans to "assert our collective identity as Africans" turned to them with an aside; "When I say Africans I mean everybody for whom the continent of Africa is their home." Everyone applauded except the grey suits.

And they did not so much as tap their toes as the president left the chamber, to a standing ovation and the chanting of "Nelson Mandela - hahona atSwana lewena" - a kind of Sesotho equivalent of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow".

But then many people believe that the departure of Nelson Mandela means the end of South Africa as a Rainbow Nation - where an entire people can draw inspiration from the mere existence of one man who suffered. Now it



possible election dates. The the government side-drew for will be over to the politicians. President Mandela shaking hands with parliamentarians in Cape Town yesterday

on tape BY MARY DEJEVSKY

in Washington

Whole

Monica'

revealed

AS AMERICANS waited, agog, to watch the "whole Monica" - the sight and sound of Monica Lewinsky in synchronisation for the first time - the transcript of her evidence showed her still protective of the President and careful not to incriminate him. The transcript, at times defiant, at times vague, was made public yesterday in accordance with a Senate vote on Thursday to release the sworn evidence that she and the other two witnesses - Vernon Jordan and Sidney Blumenthal - had given to prosecutors earlier in the

Answering questions from Ed Bryant, the Republican House prosecutor. Ms Lewinsky upbraided him when he referred to "the first so-called salacious occasion" with the President, saying: "Can you call it something else?... I mean, this is my relationship. "What would you like to call it?" Mr Bryant asked, "It was my first encounter with the President, so I don't really see it as my first salacious ... that's not what this was."

Like the other witnesses. Ms Lewinsky professed niemory lapses on some crucial issues, such as whether Mr Clinton had asked her to pass the gifts he had given her to his secretary. "Not that I remember," she said, Implicating the President in the concealment of the gifts would help to support the charge that he set out to obstruct justice, as Ms Lewinsky had by then been summoned to testify in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case.

Excerpts from the video recording of Ms Lewinsky's testimony, and that of the other witnesses, will be played to the Senate impeachment trial today. The session will be televised.

Meanwhile, a movement was growing in the Senate to have the final debate on the conviction or acquittal of the President held in public rather than, as the rules stipulate, in closed session. Republican and Democrat Senators have presented a draft motion to open the debate to the Peter Andrews/Reuters | media.

from the

Female circumcision on trial

A FRENCH court has been try-ging 27 Malian women this week for the "mutilation of minors" - the circumcision of infant

girls, according to their ancient tribal customs. The trial represents a collision of cultures but also, more importantly, a collision of generations.

It is not the first trial of its kind but it may turn out to be the most important and lead to the virtual elimination of the practice in France. For the first time, the prosecution has been brought because one of the victims had the courage to complain to the authorities when she was an adult.

in Paris

appear as African immigrant communities became more integrated in French society. French doctors say it is becoming increasingly common for teenage girls of African origin to go to family planning clinics and complain that their boyfriends - often from different ethnic backgrounds - find them "abnormal".

"No one had ever told them that they had been mutilated." said Dr Emmanuelle Petit, who works in a mother-and-child clinic in a Parisian suburb.

Depending on the country of origin, circumcision involves the removal of the clitoris, with-

parts of the genitalia. Usually the mutilation is performed when the girl is a few weeks old but it is sometimes carried out

up to the age of 10. Fewer and fewer young in France are putting their daughters through the ordeal, Dr Petit said. Where almost 100 per cent of girl babies in African

cumcised 15 years ago, "there are hardly any cases today". Almost all of the cases in the trial in Paris involved mutilations that occurred 10 years ago

> Police telephone taps proved, however, that the prin- in prison.

cipal accused, Hawa Gréou times the amputation of other 52, a professional circumciser was practising up to her arrest in 1994 and that, contrary to her claims, knew that such mutila-

tions were illegal in France. She has been in detention awaiting trial for four years, folwomen of African origin living lowing a complaint by e then 18year-old Malian woman, Mariatou Koita. Ms Koita, now a 22vear-old law student, appeared in court this week. Since she immigrant families were cir- identified Ms Gréou as the woman who circumcised her when she was eight years old. Ms Koita has been ostracised by her family.

of victims, apart from "Mama" Greou-face up to 15 years each

BY JOHN LICHFIELD out anaesthetic, and some-

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Bordeaux in crisis as buyers lose their bottle

the great wine estates of Bordeaux. The silence goes beyond the silence of the sleeping

The telephone is NOT ringing. The gravel of the château drive is NOT crunching under the BMW and Audi tyres of the most influential wine brokers and shippers.

After several years of speculative inflation, the bubble in the prices of the finest red wines in the world may be about to burst.

The 1998 vintage - although an excellent year, by all accounts - is being treated with a coolness bordering on glacial frost by the French and foreign wine trade

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SID. ABG

Advance bulk sales of last year's top châteaux wines, not yet bottled, are due to begin in about six weeks.

By early February the market would normally be buzzing with gossip and pre-negotiation a negotiations. Not this year.

The telephone is not ringing any more. It's almost got to our friends to call," said one château manager.

"There is no market in fine Bordeaux at the moment, What you have is a poker game. Both sides are waiting for the other to blink first," said Nick Faith, a British wine writer and Bor-

cost of the best young Bordeaux

BY JOHN LICHFIELD

reds - even moderate-to-good labels - has soared out of the reach of all but the wealthiest

In 1997, which was reckoned an "average" year de pretty had), the château-gate prices of some of the best-known names jumped by 70 per cent.

Some have tripled in price since 1994.

Whatever the price demanded by the producers, the shippers - especially the foreign buyers - continued to buy every bottle on offer, defying the laws of economics (and, perhaps, of common sense). All that may be

Lower-quality - £4 to £5 a bot-tle - Bordeaux is little affected. It operates in a different market, with peaks and troughs of

Higher-quality Bordeaux of drinkable age - say seven years old or more - is subject to the laws of the international wine market. Its price is althe point where we have to ask ready tending to sink (though not collapse) because of the Asian recession.

All eyes in the international wine trade are now turned towards the producer-fixed price of the best young clarets, still years away from drinkable age. Until the mid-1990s the secondrank but high-quality labels In the past four years the might have sold off the estate at about £10 to £15 a bottle. Last



Bordeaux by the barrel, but now, after years of speculative inflation, the makers of the finest red wines in the world are facing more uncertain times

year they sold at £30 to £40 a bottle (beyond the means of all but the most devoted, cellarowning claret-lover).

The problem can be summed up in one word: greed. Retail prices for mature, drinkable Bordeaux - and especially for the most sought-after vintages, such as 1982 - were driven up in the 1990s by a boom in Asian demand and a fashion for claret in America, fuelled by the wine guru Robert Parker. Even relatively young wines, three or four years old, were being sold at four times - in the case of Pétrus 1994, 10 times what the château had original-

the château owners - now as likely to be a multinational company as a local family -

ly charged.

prices and the profits made by the shippers and traders and asked "Why not us? We make the stuff, after all".

They ramped up the asking price for young Bordeaux neighbours over there in the (primeur) and, having got away with it one year, did it again, the next and the next. There is, nominally, a "mar-

ket" in the young, unbottled crus classés - claret of superi-

In reality, the trend of prices is fixed by the leading estates by processes which are difficult to define, based on a) quality and b) what the producers think they can get away with. If nyone tries to defy the trend, Some time in the mid-1990s their life, in the words of one shipper, is "made very unpleasant for them".

Jasper Morris, managing director of Morris and Verdin, a buying by City traders, hoping

specialist British wine importer, to cash in on the increasing said: "Going around the estates last year, everyone would say 'It's not a good year. I know these prices are too high but my

next chateau insist on putting

up the prices'. You would go to the next château and get the same message. It was always the fault of the other châteaux." For a few years a number of factors sustained the price bub-

ble in young Bordeaux. There were good vintages in 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996. There was good demand from "traditional" customers in Europe and the US.

There was feverish demand from "new" customers in Asia (mostly Japan and South

There was also speculative

price of the maturing wine. Last year all the markets fell

flat at once. Cases and cases of the 1997 récolte (vintage) of high-class clarets remain unsold in wine traders' cellars all over the world. One British shipper explained: "The 1997 vintage sold easily from the châteaux on to the Bordeaux wine market. It sold with some difficulty to the shippers, who knew it was a poor year. In the end, most people in the business reluctantly went with the flow. A hig

mistake. It hardly sold to their customers at all," While these stocks remain on their hands - over 50 per cent in some cases - shippers are reluctant to pay a high price for the 1998 viotage, however good it might turn out to be. Many growers accept that the prices should come down but they are reluctant to make the first move. It is a late-20thcentury reworking of the dilemma of the marriage feast at Canaa. How can you agree to sell a good vintage for less than a bad one? Besides, the producers argue, if the 1998

wine goes cheap, there will

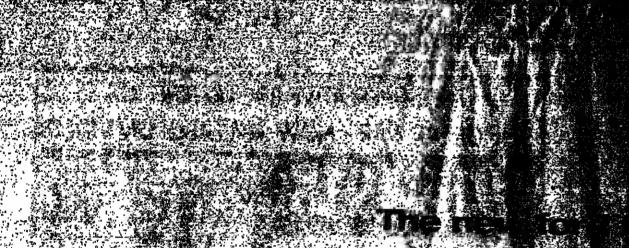
never be any reason to buy the

1997. Result: deadlock One leading Bordeaux wine broker said: "The market is style. paralysed, immobile. It is clear - and we've been begging the producers to understand this that the 1998 prices must come down, however good the vintage

"Everything we hear suggests that the wine is either good or very good. No matter. The estates have to swallow their pride to get the market moving again. I believe we need a fall of 30 to 40 per cent - more for the really expensive wines and less for the moder ate ones."

The danger is that, while prices remain high, Bordeaux may lose part of its traditional markets in Europe and the US - and even its new market in Asia - to the New World producers now turning out wines of great quality in the claret

The Bordeaux broker said "We are playing with fire. OK Bordeaux will always be Bordeaux. We are not going to lose our reputation and markets overnight. But enough is enough. The prices were pushed to absurd and unjustihable levels last year. There must be a correction this time,"



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Car Of The Year 1999

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Nightmare of Masai Mara comes to end

A WEEK IN THE LIFE
JOHN WARD, NAIROBI

JOHN WARD hates the night flight frum Gatwick to Nairobi. He says airlines get away with "dreadful service" because for most people the flight is a once in-a-lifetime experience to a dream game park destination. Not for him; he has flown to Kenya more times than he can remember over the last 11 years - sometimes two or three times in a month - to doggedly pursue an investigation into the so-far unsolved murder of his daughter, Julie, in Kenya's Masai Mara national park.

"Bloody night flights, I hate artiving in cold, murky Gatwick at 4am then driving three hours home to Suffolk. I hate arriving in Nairobi, finding your baggage is lost... then It's into a taxi and straight to the lawyers office," said John Ward.

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Sometimes, he does go on to the game park - hut not for a once-in-a-lifetime safari. The Masai Mara is his private nightmare, where his 28-yearold daughter was murdered and dismembered, and her remains hidden. It has been his determination alone that has brought two men to trial this month, after years of battling with police cover-ups, reluctant officialdom, obstructive politics and the inefficiency of a corrupt justice system.

ON THURSDAY, the trial is due to begin. False starts have been typical of the process and provoke little more than an ironic raised eyebrow from Mr Ward, although he is sure to get up at seven in the morning to be photographers and television ready in court at 9.30am. He has



Julie Ward: Killed in the Masai Mara 11 years ago

his standard coffee and toast, then waits for "Big John", the Mercedes-driving taxi man who is his regular driver. "Maybe I'll buy a car for the trial," he says. "I spend so much on taxi fares in this country."

First, they drive to the office of the lawyer, Salim Dhanji, where Mr Ward works together with police detectives and the prosecution team on bundles of documents. Together they discuss the case and prosecution tactics. Mr Ward says this is a good "refresher" for him as a witness - "I will be the major story-teller in this case, because others go in and out, look at parts of it, but I am the thread that runs through from beginning to end."

TRUE TO form, the judge arrives in the tioy, packed courtroom well after 9.30 - then there is a flurry of activity from cameras around the accused,

Simon Makallah, and around John Ward. Sometimes the latter finds the media attention a bit much, although he is meticulously polite and facilitating. Of the scramble in the courtroom, he says it is like "throwing bread in a pond of fish". When he sits in court, his de-

meanour changes. A large man, shrewd and decisive, normally with an appealing friendliness and bluff sense of humour, he seems to shrink in the pew-like seats. Dressed formally in a black suit and carrying a briefcase, he no longer looks like a working member of the team, but, with a strangely distant, strained appearance; a grieving father. The case is adjourned until 26 February, to give the court time to join the cases of the two men now accused of the murder.

MR WARD is dropped back at the apartment he has rented for the trial. He calls it shabby - "I don't like it" - hut he did not have much choice in getting a short-let, furnished apartment m down-town Nairobi. Two detectives are due

shortly, so he makes tea and sandwiches and gets cold soft drinks out of the fridge. He says he likes the police team, and the lawyer, and considers many of them real friends.

As a multi-millionaire hotelier, he is as at home entertaining in his own kitchen as he is being served like a celebrity. When the detectives leave Mr Ward's "office" at around 5.30pm - documents spread on the coffee table where the lap-



top is a token concession to tech- his shareholders in London. nology - he "clears up the hloody dishes" and says he wonders sometimes what his life has come to.

ON FRIDAY morning, Mr Ward has an uncharacteristically late breakfast, "I tossed and turned until about four in the morning," he says. The trial was on his mind, and a meeting he has next week with

He shows no desire to talk about seeing the accused. But then he sharply interrupts to say Makallah's attitude has changed in court."I think he

knows this is it," he says.

He has another day of legal work ahead of him, but hopes "we" will be able to have a day off at lake-side Naivasha on Sunday. It turns out to be a solitary plan. "I tend to say we even when I mean me," he says.

Mr Ward still hopes his wife, Jan, will join him during the trial, but is not sure. "She's working on other things, like exhibitions of Muff's [the fam-

ily nickname for Julie] wildlife

photos in London," he says. Much as he wants her to come, he is pragmatic about his wife's involvement elsewhere. It's "a good thing", he says, she has found something else in life, other than the trial. LUCY HANNAN

Child rapist is executed in **B-movie style**

THE GRUESOME circus surrounding the execution of the Filipino child rapist Leo Echegaray finally ended yesterday at exactly 3.19pm Manila time when he was pronounced dead after an injection of a lethal dose of potassium chloride.

The 38-year-old house painter became the first man to be executed in the Philippines for 23 years after narrowly escaping death last month when he was granted a reprieve by the Supreme Court, allowing Congress to reconsider its stance on the death penalty.

Congress, urged on by President Joseph Estrada and the rape victim, Echegaray's daughter-in-law, known as "Baby", turned its back on pleas to keep the Philippines

free of the death penalty. Only the President could have saved Echegaray but he came to office last May pledging to fight crime. He sees executions as a key tool in the battle. The crime rate remains high but President Estrada is pursuing a popular campaign to get tough on criminals.

He said on Thursday that he had no time to read Echegaray's last-minute appeal and yesterday declared that the hotline to the presidential palace, which can be used for appeals, was cut because he bad no intention of listening to a reprieve request. When the condemned house

painter entered the execution chamber he was wearing a wrist hand with the name "Erap" written on it. Erap is the President's nickname; Echegaray, like many other poor people, was one of his supporters. He also clutched a Bible and wore a badge reading "execute justice, not people". According to Zenaida Javier the woman he married while in jail, he maintained his

innocence to the last. However, his lawyer, Theodore Tay, was more for the other 914 inmates on

BY STEPHEN VINES m Manila

sincere," he said, "and that he believes he is innocent." Echegaray was accused of raping the then 10-year-old girl

five times. According to a prison official his last words were: "Babv. forgive me."

If this sounds like a track from a corny Hollywood film script it may he because the whole execution was surrounded in the morbid atmosphere of a B-movie plot.

Film-makers in the Philippines are husy putting together the story in a typically lurid fashion. On the eve of the execution, a local radio station aired a cassette recorded by his wife on her final visit, in which Echegaray spoke of his love for her and his dreams of their future life together.

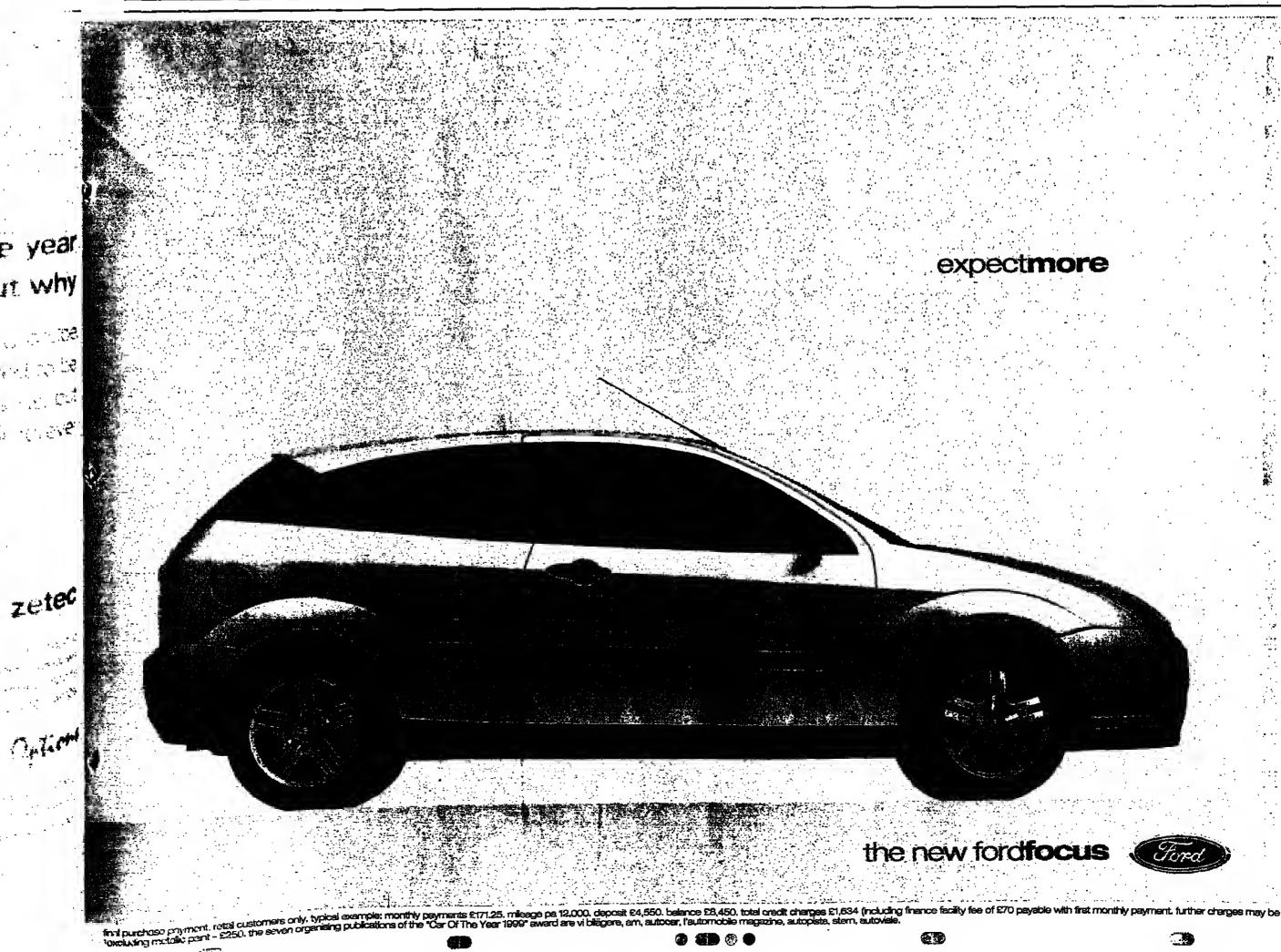
Inside the prison, reporters were admitted to see the condemned man make his half-mile shuffle from his cell to the execution room.

Outside the jail where the execution took place, rival prayer vigils and demonstrations were held by pro- and antideath penalty activists. Echegaray's wife went up to

the prison fence to have her picture taken with a pink rose in her hand. Around the nation church bells were rung at 3pm by order of the Catholic church, which has led the anti-death penalty crusade.

"This is a sad day," said Oscar Cruz, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines. "Life is taken away - not by accident. not hy sickness, not even hy a criminal, but hy no less than the state."

A rather different view came from the presidential palace, where the President's men were busy churning out statements about how their leader had stood firm and was waiting circumspect. "I believe he is death row to be dealt with.



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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Hamley's shareholders play tough

INSTITUTIONAL shareholder pressure is understood to be mounting for changes on the board of Hamley's, the underperforming toy retailer. Leading investors are said to be unhappy about declining profits at the group and may push for a new chief executive to replace Chris Ash. His position appears to have been undermined by the return of Stephen Woodbridge as executive deputy chairman, although he is supposedly only working on short-term projects.

Hamley's profits are forecast to fall from last year's £7.5m to £8m this year after a series of operational problems that have compounded the impact of weak consumer spending and falling tourist numbers at its flagship Regent Street store. Hamley's biggest shareholders are M&G, Jupiter and Phillips & Drew.

Dimon seeks \$42.5m share sale



JAME DIMON (left), the former president of Citigroup, yesterday applied to sell 800,000 sbares, worth about \$42.5m (£26m), in the company he bruptly left in November. Mr Dimon, 42, stunned Wall Street when he left the world's largest financial company at the request of his boss and former mentor, the co-chairman Sanford Weill Mr Dimon's

departure, a month after Citigroup's merger with Travelers Group, followed a \$1.33bn trading less at the investment banking unit he led with Deryck Maughan.

Weir rejects £600m cash offer

WEIR GROUP, the Glasgow-based pump maker, yesterday rejected a 2600m cash offer from Flowserve of the US, whose offer was worth 300p per Weir share. Flowserve is smaller than Weir and could not afford the extra debt to mount a realistic offer. Weir, profitable and cash-rich, is expected to resist any offer under 350p. The shares fell 26p to 281p.

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Surprise profit warning sends MDIS skidding

MDIS - the former McDonnell Information Systems - threatened yesterday to return to its former accident-prone form after a surprise profits warning sent its shares skidding 12 per cent before they recovered

to close 3.5p lower at 42p. The software group, which has returned to both profitability and the dividend list under the former IBM executive John Klein, blamed unex-

BY ANDREW GARFIELD Financial Editor

joint venture with Fujitsu of Japan. Glovia has been hit by the slump in demand for business planning software.

The group also announced plans to enter into a complex sale-and-leaseback agreement which will cut the rental costs of its beadquarters by £2m a year, but which will require a pected losses at Glovia, its one-off exceptional write-off to make up the shortfall by

of £2m against last-year accounts.

Following yesterday's state-

ment, Collins Stewart, the house broker, cut its profits forecast before tax and exceptionals from 17m to £2.7m, although windfall gains from a settlement with the Inland Revenue could take that up to £8m in beadline

terms.

The group is also planning

recognising £4m of the exceptional gain from the joint venture with Fuiltsu announced in June 1997.

The MDIS board said that the public and corporate sectors and human resources systems, both problem areas in the past, had increased their order intake by 25 per cent .

Similar problems, which are a result of the collapse in Asian markets, have also hit Glovia's larger rivals such SAP and

Baan, both of which have experienced a dramatic fall from grace over recent months.

John Morely at Collins Stewart said that the shortfall was disappointing, but he insisted that there were good reasons to believe this was a temporary setback. The 40 per cent growth in revenue at Glovia contrasts favourably with the 15 per cent rise SAP, the market leader, could muster in the

This company has come from buge losses to profit and back on to the dividend list. They are doing a good job. I wish there were not this shortfall this year, but the positives are

good," be said. MDIS has yet to live down the poor reputation it gained in the City when it plunged from a high of 234p shortly after flotation in 1994 after a spate of profits warnings.

Sainsbury shares hit 12-month low

stock market yet again yesterday when it revealed a poor sales performance over Christmas and admitted that its highprofile "Value to Shout About" advertising campaign starring John Cleese had failed to meet

expectations. Sainsbury's shares plunged by more than 8 per cent to a 12month low of 393p as the supermarket group said underlying sales in the 19 weeks to 30 January were up by just 1.2 per cent on the same period last year. This compares to a figure of 4.1 per cent announced by Tesco last month, indicating that Sainsbury's is continuing to lose ground to the market leader.

Sainsbury's chief executive, Dino Adriano, said that although the Cleese campaign had succeeded in attracting more customers to the stores, it had not encouraged them to spend more. Instead they had

hit a three-year high, new fig-

ures revealed, with more ex-

pected in the coming months as

the economy continues to slow.

ment of Trade and Industry,

there were 3,346 company

insolvencies in the final quar-

ter of 1998. This is 6.8 per cent

higher than the same period in

1997, and the largest quarterly

Insolvency experts warned

that yesterday's jump in the

figures was just the tip of the

total since early 1996.

According to the Depart-

CORPORATE insolvencies have By LEA PATERSON

iceberg. Economists regard 13,203 in 1998 to 16,000 in 1999

Associate City Editor

focused only on the promoted, cut-price ranges, leaving Sainsbury's with a lower average transaction size. "Shoppers were just popping in, picking up the bargains and going elsewhere," one analyst said.

The result is that not only has the price campaign failed to stimulate sales, but it has reduced margins as well. Sainsbury's would not com-

ment on whether it would continue to use the services of Mr Cleese. However, it is considered unlikely that the comedian's contract will be renewed following suggestions that Sainsbury's has found the former Monty Python star too expensive and difficult to work

Sainsbury's was forced to deny rumours that it is planning a major strategic review, and suggestions that Mr Adri-

insolvency data as a lagging

rather than a leading indicator

of activity - it takes time for a

slowdown in demand to feed

through into corporate profits.

Steve Hill, an insolvency

expert at the accountancy firm

PricewaterhouseCoopers, pre-

dicted that insolvencies could

surge by as much as 40 per cent

nomic model, corporate insol-

vencies will rise from a total of

According to the PwC eco-

over the next two years.

unchanged, and Dino looked perfectly well last time I saw him," a spokesman said.

Analysts criticised the company, saying its management team had moved too slowly to act on prices and was still being outmanoeuvred by rivals such as Tesco, Asda and a recovering Safeway, whose trading update is due on Monday. "This husiness seems no closer to solving the problem of how to grow sales in an environment of falling margins than it was five years ago," said

analyst at Morgan Stanley. Market share figures compiled by AGB show that in December Sainsbury's share of the UK grocery market was 16.1 per cent, compared to 20.2 per cent beld by Tesco. Two years ago Sainsbury's was much closer, with 17.1 per cent compared to Tesco's share of

ture could be far worse - the

PwC model assumes that the

Mr Hill said: "Although gear-

ing levels are certainly lower

than in 1990, the most vulner-

tion, botels, restaurants,

a very difficult time for many

A separate study out yes-

companies."

UK avoids outright recession.

and 18.800 in 2000. If UK eco- undermine

nomic growth turns out to be lower than expected, the pic-NTC Research revealed falls in

19.3 per cent.

Slowdown leads to insolvency rise

Andrew Fowler, food retail

watchers suggest there are parallels between the plight of Sainsbury's and that of Marks & Spencer, another dimming high-street star. They said Sainsbury's was now paying proving difficult to shake off. Sainsbury's just does not have a culture that learns quickly," one analyst said. Sainsbury's bas been

rent-year profit forecasts to

around £750m. Some sector

caught out in an ever more price-competitive supermarket environment, as is illustrated by the current price war on bread, with some supermarkets cutting the cost of a sliced white loaf to just 7p.

Its trading statement showed that underlying sales at Savacentre were up by just 0.4 per cent. Homebase, the DIY chain, did better with a 4.3 per cent rise.

demand for both permanent

The NTC figures - produced on behalf of the Federation of

Recruitment and Employment

Services - pointed to a further

permanent and temporary staff

slowed to the weakest seen in

the 16-month history of the

The survey showed that the

and temporary staff.

Float values **GM's Delphi** at \$9.6bn

THE WORLD'S largest automotive components supplier arrived on the stock market yesterday as General Motors floated its Delphi Automotive Systems division with a valuation of \$9.6bn (£5.8bn).

Initially GM is listing just under 20 per cent of the shares, raising \$1.7bn. But it plans to distribute the remainder of the sbares to GM sharebolders later this year through a demerger.

The initial public offering of 100 million shares, representing 17.7 per cent of Deiphi, was priced at \$17 a share. The offer was three-and-a-half times subscribed, with institutions applying for 310 million shares husiness, Visteon. and retail investors 150 million

Delphi, which supplies a full range of components to GM factories throughout the world, had sales of \$28.4bn last year, ranking it among the top 30 US companies in the Fortune 500. Based in Troy, Michigan, the company has 200,000 employees and operates from 169 sites and a further 40 joint ventures in 36 countries.

In the UK, Delphi employs 1,250 people at six sites -Coventry, Ellesmere Port, Livand Basingstoke. It supplies components ranging from engine parts and instrument

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

Vauxhall's two UK car plants at Ellesmere Port and Luton. Delphi's chief executive, J T

Battenberg III. said the main purposes of floating the company as an independent business was to pick up more sales from vehicle manufacturers other than GM. Historically, rival car makers have been reluctant to buy from a business which is 100 per centowned by GM, the world's leading car maker.

For the same reason Ford is also planning a stock market listing and demerger of its inbouse automotive components

Mr Battenberg also said that the flotation would give Delpbi greater commercial freedom and mean that it oo longer had to compete with other parts of GM for resources to expand and update its facilities.

Paul Fleming, Delphi's UK director, said the company was already much more than an original equipment manufacturer. It also planned to expand its operations to take advantage of the number of car makers that had set up in Britain

Delphi has already helped Land Rover to produce a new clusters to steering columns system that enhances the corand electronic systems to nering of its models.

the price for an "arrogant inward-looking attitude" that was sard-looking attitude" that was propried difficult to choke off shuns cash bid

LUCASVARITY yesterday edged closer to a £4bn takeover by its US rival TRW after Federal-Mogul hinted that it would not launch an all-casb counterbid for the British the car parts and

aerospace group. However, Federal-Mogul said it could raise its initial £3.6bn cash-and-paper offer for Lucas in a bid to trump TRW's cash bid. Federal-Mogul, one of the largest car parts makers in the US, is due to decide on a counterbid over the next few days after spending more than a week examining the Lucas books.

The news came as TRW was preparing to post its offer document to Lucas sharebolders this weekend. In a briefing with US investors, the chief executive Dick Snell said that it was "unlikely" that the company would mount an all-cash assault on Lucas.

Industry analysts had been predicting that Mr Snell would find it difficult to summon the financial resources for an allcash offer due to Federal-Mogul's overstretched balance

Mr Snell's statement is a blow for Lucas UK shareholders who are unwilling to hold frav.

By Francesco Guerrera

ing for a cash bid from Federal-Mogul. City analysts were last night predicting that if Mr Snell is to succeed in the battle with TRW be would have to devise a method to allow British shareholders to take the cash, leaving the Federal-Mogul shares to US investors. Many UK institutions, which account for about 45 per cent of Lucas shareholders, are not allowed to own US shares and are set to vote down any cash-and-

During the briefing, Mr Snell said that, if Federal-Mogul wins the bid war, it would quickly sell Lucas aerospace business. "Aerospace does not fit at all ... We have had wild interest in the business from the aerospace industry and an beated auction for that is easy to conceive." The division could attract

paper offer.

bids from a number of companies in the rapidly consolidating aerospace industry. City analysts said the list of potential bidders would be topped by the UK groups Smiths Industries and TI, with several US groups also likely to enter the

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

terday found that the slowing survey. Skill shortages are also economy was cootinuing to starting to ease, NTC said.

able sectors include construc- easing of pay pressures.

engineering and transport. It is rate of growth of pay for both

LONDON

FOOTSIE fell 84.6 points to 5,855.3 on worries about US interest rates. Mid cap shares, in rampant form for much of this year, retreated and it was left to the small cap index to produce a gain. Once again trading was busy with volume topping 1 billion shares. J Sainsbury, the supermarket chain, was the poorestperforming blue chip, falling 36p to a 12-month low of 393p. Other supermarket shares were unsettled and the bread price war lowered

Associated British Foods 280 to

Derek Pain, page 21

NEW YORK

SHARES again opened lower, led by further falls in hi-tech stocks. The rise of 245,000 in January non-farm payroll numbers was well above expectations, encouraging fears of a rise in interest

Near midday the Dow Jones average was 11.84 lower at 9.292.66 and Nasdaq was down 48.33 - 2 per cent - at 2,361.74. Microsoft was down \$3.875 at \$155.19 and Intel down \$3 at \$127.125. IBM. General Motors and Xerox were among fallers.

TOKYO

RENEWED strength in the yen combined with the overnight fall on Wall Street to send Tokyo shares lower. The Nikkei 225 index closed down 188.77 at 13,898.08. still comfortably above the day's low of 13,769.25 and the technical support level of 13,800.

Car and steel makers, telecoms and banks were mixed, but hi-tech shares were lower in sympathy with the fall on the Nasdaq index. with Hitachi down by another 23 yen at 745 yen, and Toshiba down 18 yen at 724 yen.

HONG KONG

HONG KONG suffered most of the Asia-Pacific markets hit hard by overnight falls on Wall Street and Nasdaq. By the close the Hang Seng was down 248.45, or 2.63 per cent, at 9.190.20, its lowest of the year so far.

Banks and property shares were down as hopes of a cut in interest rates before the Chinese Lunar New Year faded. HSBC fell HK\$5 to HK\$189, Hongkong Telecom and China Telecom were down, and the Hang Seng China index fell 4.16 to 295.12.

SAO PAULO

PRICES IN Sao Paulo slid again and the currency retreated further after the IMF called for further budget cuts as the price of further financial help for the economy.

The real fell a further 2 per cent to 1.81 reals to the dollar, and the Bovespa share index was down 190 points or 2.2 per cent at 8,462 by late morning, reflecting a general sense of gloom.

The Brazilian trade deficit widened from \$594m in December to \$754m in January, pointing to further problems for the economy.

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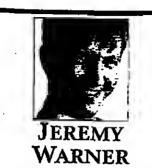
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Net gain may be only for consumers

MASAYOSHI SON is a South Korean who lives in Japan. Some years ago, he decided that the Internet would be the future and raised \$100m to invest in the World Wide Web. His company, Softbank Corporation of Japan, examined some 5,000 Internet companies, most of them from the US, and eventually invested in 100 of them. His choices, which include a big stake in Yahoo!, have made him seem like one of the most inspired investors of all time.

Today his \$100m is worth in excess of \$15bn and he is at the vanguard of the boom in Internet stocks. Most people think the phenomenon a bubble, which will inevitably burst and deflate. Mr Son believes we are only at the beginning - that the market capitalisation of the Internet sector will continue to rise exponentially over the years ahead as the World Wide Web works its transforming powers on husi-

Whose judgement would you rather trust? Those who have utterly failed to forecast the significance of the Net, and now without a single Internet stock in their portfolio, condemn the phenomenon as a dangerous financial bubble, or those who like Mr Son saw it coming and backed their hunches? I'm for Buy.com has a unique selling



There is no doubt that the Internet is raising some fascinating investment issues

not even going to attempt to answer this question, because whichever way I jump, I'm highly likely to be wrong. But there is no doubt that the Internet is raising some fascinating investment issues

Just consider the following. An internet company called Buy.com in the US is planning shortly to tap the market for \$60m through an initial public offering. The issue is almost bound to be hugely over subscribed,

visages a negative margin on everything it sells over the Net -in other words it plans to sell products for less than it buys them for The difference, it is envisaged, will be made up by advertising revenue. The more hits that Buycom can generate, the more advertising it will attract and the more it can reduce its

This is such a far out business proposition that it could only really be invented in America.

There is nothing new in the concept of loss leading, of course. The story is possibly apocryphal, but it was reported at the time of the great baked beans price war some years ago that one supermarket actually began to pay shoppers to come through the doors and relieve Its shelves of baked beans. A similar form of loss leading is being used by the supermarkets in the present bread price war. On our own turf in the British newspaper industry, The Times has been selling below its costs of production for five years now, and jolly annoying it is too.

In all these cases, however, such loss leading, predatory pricing, call it what you will, is only possible because it is conducted by large or-

proposition. Its business plan en- from more conventionally priced will mean nobody is capable of products. Buy.com is a business start up and no such subsidy is available. Even so, it might just work. Independent Television in Britain has operated profitably in precisely this manner for many years, paying for the cost of its programmes entirely from advertising

> But just think about the implications of what Buy.com is proposing. It sells products at below cost, which in turn puts a general deflationary pressure on product prices. It bopes to make up the money by persuading the producers of those products to advertise. For conventional producers and distributors. this is plainly extremely bad news indeed. At every level, they lose out.

> In such a game, even Internet distributors such as Amazon.com would struggle, because eventually Buy.com and others like it will find a way of selling books and CDs even more cheaply. Far from benefiting business, then, the internet may be destined profoundly to damage it. Certainly it is capable of tipping the scales of benefit very significantly away from business and towards the consumer Logically we'll end up with a situation where the in-

making a profit.

In reality, of course, that extreme of position will never be reached, if only because business has to make profit to survive. All the same, the idea that the World Wide Web presents businesses old and new with unparalleled opportunities may be a hit of a misconception.

Certainly there will be business success stories on the web. It can also safely be said that those businesses that don't fully embrace the net will fail. Furthermore, the web has the potential greatly to increase the volume and speed of trade. But in the end the weh is more of a challenge to husiness than an opportunity.

This applies not just to established producer/distributors, but to the newer generation of wealth creators and internet entrepreneurs too. Electronic commerce has already achieved take off point in the US. In the process, quite a few traditional "on-land" retailers have now largely made the switch to "on-

For instance, at Charles Schwab. the discount stock broker, more than 70 per cent of trades are now conducted through the Net. Retensity of competition on the Net markably, this migration has al-

customer service. It is now able to offer personal advise and content in a way never economically possible under the old model.

In Britain, the migration to electronic commerce is likely to be slower. This is not just because personal computer penetration is lower. The telephone costs of using the Net free in the US, costly in the UK growth too. Even so, what is happening in the US will presumably

eventually sweep the world. Some forecasters believe that e commerce will quite quickly grow to be larger than the total size of all commerce as it stands today. If this seems a logical impossibility, it is only because the Net's potential for expanding the volume and speed of trade tends to be ignored. However. even the most conservative forecasts point to phenomenal

Despite this, it is not yet clear where the web's money making capacity lies, if indeed it lies anywhere. For most businesses, the web is just another marketing and distribution channel, albeit a very low cost one.

Nobody has any doubt but that the weh is going to transform the way they do business, hut they keener pricing.

lowed Schwah greatly to enhance also worry about how they are ever going to make any money out of it. It may well be that the only true business beneficiaries are the internet wholesalers and gate keepers, those able to offer a mechanism for searching the Web for the low-

est possible prices. Nobody can reasonably object to competition and transparency; but many husinessmen are beginning are proving a big constraint on to think there are limits. Unfortunately, the internet doesn't recognise them. Personally, I share the investment perspective of the Web put

forward by Bill Gates of Microsoft. I hope I do him no injustice hy paraphrasing it in this manner. The net is plainly a wonderful thing which is revolutionising the way business is conducted, and for consumers it is a godsend which for the first time this millennium puts them firmly in the saddle in terms of choice and value. But don't assume there's gold to be had from mining these seams. Disney and Coca Cola are much more likely still to be big companies making good profits 25 years from now than Yahoo! or Amazon.com. And as for established consumer goods producers. the outlook is only for more and more competition and keener and

IN BRIEF

US jobless rate at

THE NUMBER of johs created in the US amounted to 245,000 last month, leaving the unemployment rate at a

near-30 year low of 4.3 per cent. News of the higgerthan-expected increase in non-farm payrolls was tempered by a downward revision of 80,000 to December's

rise. However, the figure con-

WBB accepts bid

WATTS, BLAKE Bearne, the

Devon-based china clay pro-

ducer, accepted a bid of 500p a share from SCR Sibelco, a

group which already owns 44

price is 31 per cent above the

market price of WBB before

ues the company at around

£1m share sale

ROBIN SAXBY, president of

ARM Holdings, yesterday sold 60,000 of his shares in

the British microchip manu-

facturer for more than £1m.

After unveiling full year pre-

16 times forecast earnings for

privately-owned Belgian

glass, sand and minerals

per cent of WBB. The bid

takeover talks were announced last month, and val-

firmed the remarkable and

continuing strength of the

American economy

30-year low

Holiday sector in demand as Footsie feels the pressure

AS BOOKIE William Hill canters along towards its market flotation, shares of the last big "popular" stock sale came to life as takeover rumours swirled around.

Thomson Travel, Britain's biggest holidays group, has been a major disappointment to its army of small shareholders. The shares briefly flirted with 200p but were down to 105.5 in October and bumping along at 138p before they were engulfed in bid excitement. Talk of a German bid lifted them 17.5p to 155.5 - still below the offer price - in frenetic trading.

The Thomson Boat, accompanied by the perk of cut-price per cent. holidays for subscribing shareholders, was marred by complaints of share shop inefficiency.

This week the other leading holiday operators have also been in demand although, until vesterday's burst of activity Thomson had been left out in

The holiday sector has been encouraged hy favourable comments from Warburg Dillon Read, which has alighted on Thomson and Airtours as its favoured shares.

It could be argued that the sudden strength of holiday shares is related to the modest revival in oversold leisure shares this week. Forward holiday bookings are thought to be running at a heady level,

EXPECT takeover action soon from AIM-listed Pubs'n'Bars. The group is bought to be near to taking her a 34-strong pubs chain with which it is already closely related. Talks are also going on with another pubs company and there are bopes they will be concluded in the next few weeks. Pubs'n'Bars, with its shares unchanged at 50p, is

capitalised at £1.8m. although capacity has heen

reduced. This week's baseate cut should further enourage a summertime rush to Airtours, up 9p to 430.5p.

Pas strong on Thursday as topes returned that its major shareholder, the US Carnival Corporation, was planning a nd. First Choice, the number ee holiday group, rose 5.5p

Preussag, the German roup, was said to be chasing Thomson. Any hid, however. rould be complicated by its control of Thomas Cook. the irst package tour operator. Three days ago Preussag said t was looking to raise £750m o increase its tourism busiiess, which has replaced such teavy industries as coal, steel und engineering as its core

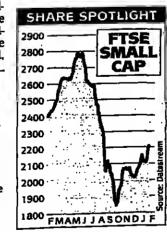
ectivity, Thomson has, since its flotaion, been on the expansion reil and on Monday acquired wo businesses for around



£28.5m. Until the share sale it was controlled by the Canadian Thomson family. Now the Canadian interest is down to 20

Most other shares were down in the dumps. Footsie, ruffled by fears of higher US interest rates, fell 84.6 points to 5,855.3 in another busy session. Even the in-form mid cap index, strong for much of this year, lost its enthusiasm. falling 21.1 points to 5,211.5. It was left to the small cap shares to keep the bull flag flying, with their index up 8.5 to 2,209.9.

J Sainsbury's disappointing trading statement - and, presumably, the bread war - lowered the shares by 36p to 393p, a 12-month low. Tesco lost 5.75p to 181.75p and Safeway



12p.5p to 278.5p. Associated British Foods, the Sunblest bread group, crumbled 28p to

Footsie's top player was BG. up 19p to 360.5p EMI, the showbiz group, continued to score from Warburg Dillon Read aupport, up e further

18.5p to 450.5p. WPP, the advertising group, gained 12p to 474p on Goldman Sachs support, and NFC advanced 6p to 147.5p after meeting analysts.

Tate & Lyle, the sweeteners group, improved 20.25p to 450p as BT Alex Brown suggested a

Ladbroke, confirming it is the Stakis stalker, fell 8.75p to 230p; Stakis rose 4.5p to 141.5p. Vaux, the hotel and pub group that is near to selling its two hreweries and 350 bottom-ofthe barrel pubs, put on 20.5p to 275p on the theory that it, too, will be drawn into the maelstrom of corporate action in the hotels sector.

There was mixed news on the takeover front. Weir, the engineer collapsed 26p to 281p as it ended discussions with

Flowserve, a US group. The Americans, it seems, were prepared to bid 300p a share: whether they will return to the fray with a hostile offer remains to be seen.

Watts, Blake Bearne, the china clays group, firmed 15p to 490p after its major shareholder, the Belgian Sibelco group, produced its signalled offer. Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers firmed 25p to 1,725p after Newsquest, unchanged at 301p, indicated bid

Rebus, the computer group, jumped 22p to 159.5p as offer talks were confirmed.

Wyko, a precision engineer, said it had not collected any offers but was reviewing its options. The shares gained

13p to 94p. BICC, the cables and construction group, remained on the wanted list, gaining 1.5p to 84p on continuing bid speculation. But engineer FKI, wide ly tipped as the next bid target, fell 5.5p to 163.5p in busy trad-

Northern Leisure, the discotheque chain, added 10.5p to 148p as the group continued to benefit from bid talk and the revival in the heavily battered leisure sector

Profits warnings flowed again. Salt group Staveley fell 9.5p to 71.5p and MDIS, no stranger to providing dire tidings to shareholders, lost 3.5p to 42p after cautioning that re-

SHARES IN Rage Software were again busily traded as stories went round that Microsoft may take a 5 per cent stake in the computer games group.

The company recently said it was in talks with Microsoft on distribution of its latest football game, Ruud Gullit Striker. Rage shares firmed 0.5p to 14.75p: Seaq put turnover at 5.4 million. Three years ago the price touched 25p.

sults would be helow expecta-

Gyrus, a medical group, firmed 2p to 175.5p; it raised £10.5m by placing shares at 146p. Future Integrated Technology, unchanged at 25p, raised £115,000, placing shares at 21p. Oxford Molecular hardened 2.5p to 39p as a long time seller was cleared.

Dawson International gained 5p to 17p - five years ago the shares were 159p - as aggressive investor Guinness Peat arrived with a 5.4 per cent shareholding. Phillips & Drew, the fund manager that has been flexing its investment muscles lately, is already involved in the textile group with a 21.7 per cent stake. Fitness First, the health

week, jumped 26p to 398.5p. SEAQ VOLUME: 1.08 billion SEAQ TRADES: 75,759 GILTS INDEX: 115.86 +0.08 | the year we experienced an yet to earn a penny in profit.

from AIM to a full listing next



Granada seeks early float to fix market value of ONdigital

Newsquest confirms P&S takeover talks

GRANADA, the media to hotels group, is pushing for an early flotation of ONdigital in an attempt to put a firm valuation on the fledgling pay-television

Granada is understood to want to examine the possibility of floating ONdigital in 18 months' time. The company is likely to push for the issue to be discussed by ONdigital's board

before the end of the year. Floating ONdigital would help cement the value of the venture, 59 per cent earned by Granada and Carlton, the media group run by Michael Green. City analysts are divided about ONdigital's value, with estimates of its worth ranging

Mail, yesterday confirmed it is

in preliminary takeover talks

with Portsmouth & Sunder-

land Newspapers, which put

itself up for sale last month after

rejecting a bid approach from

a statement confirming its

intent after the competition

minister, Kim Howells, decided

to refer Johnston's proposed ac-

quisition of P&S to the Monop-

Newsquest last night issued

rival Johnston Press.

from £250m to as much as £1bn. 30-channel service in Novem-British Sky Broadcasting, the satellite television group, in the race to sign up subscribers to

Details of ONdigital's per-

NEWSQUEST, publisher of the BY ANDREW GARFIELD

Northern Echo and Oxford Financial Editor

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

ONdigital which launched its ber has been battling with ations attached to hi-tech stocks digital television

its shareholders expect it to have signed up 350,000 sub-

scribers by the end of the year. BSkyB will next week update the City on the performance of its digital service when it issues half-year results. However, ONdigital is thought unlikely to issue an update before May.

olies and Mergers Commis-

sion. Following that decision,

Newsquest has asked the

Department of Trade and

Industry for a similar refer-

ence that would allow a

Newsquest bid for the group to

be considered at the same time.

1,725p yesterday, valuing the

company at over £200m.

P&S shares rose 25p to

Sources close to Newsquest

chief executive, is understood to be interested in floating the minimum 20 per cent stake allowed by Stock Exchange rules. Shareholders may also want to capitalise on the soaring valu-

by seeking a dual listing on Nasdaq, the US exchange. Carlton and Granada have formance are a close secret, but budgeted a total investment of £375m for ONdigital over the next five years. The venture will break even when it has two mil-

lion subscribers. The flotation of ONdigital has been under consideration for some time. Last year Morgan Stanley, the investment bank, was retained to examine grew by a total of 4.8 per cent.

mean the group would defi-

nitely make an offer for P&S.

"This is a matter of keeping our

There is little doubt that

options open in the event of our

making a bid." said a source.

Newsquest has the firepower to

pull the deal off. Although the

group is heavily geared, ana-

lysts said it had a strong cash

flow and an unused bank facil-

Johnston said earlier this

ity of £150m at its disposal.

insisted last night that the re- week that it would press on with

quest should not be read to its bid for P&S despite the fail-

Charles Allen, Granada's the possibility of a float. However, ONdigital is not currently thought to have retained any financial advisors.

If Cariton and Granada decide against an early float, they are likely to wait until 2003 when the business has been up and running for five years.

Meanwhile, Granada yesterday indicated that ITV had increased its share of television advertising revenue since the beginning of the year. Steve Morrison, chief executive of Granada's media division, said ITV's advertising revenues in January grew by 11 per cent on the same month last year. In 1998 ITV's advertising revenues

ure of its tender offer for 10 per

cent of the group. Johnston

already holds 14.99 per cent.

the local newspaper interests of

Scottish Radio Holdings, has

confirmed he is putting togeth-

P&S said: "We welcome all

interest. We do not have any-

thing such as a favoured bidder.

There are certainly others out

er a bid for the entire group.

Charles Villiers, who built up

tax profits on Wednesday of £9.4m, more than double the previous year's total, ARM's share price rose 162.5p, 8.6

per cent, to 2,045p. Gordon to retire DONALD GORDON, the South African financier, announced that he plans to retire from

the chairmanship of Liberty Life, the insurance company he founded, before the end of the year. Mr Gordon, 68, is to stay on as chairman of Capital Shopping Centres, which tre, and his London listed property and financial services vehicle, Liberty International.

Morse joins Offer A SENIOR investment banker has been appointed to head the review of electricity prices hy energy regulator Callum McCarthy, Richard Morse, a senior executive at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, is to join Offer on a two-year

secondment in March. **NatPower play**

NATIONAL POWER announced plans to expand its overseas operations further by building a £170m gas-fired power station in south Aus-

E-commerce drives profits boom at ECsoft

THE GROWTH of electronic By NIGEL COPE commerce and Internet use Associate City Editor by business and industry has chuh chain planning to move

the stock market only last year. Full-year profits more than doubled to £8.1m and the workforce has mushroomed from 101 in 1997 to almost 800. The Amazon.com, which are enjoy-

fuelled a profits bonanza at increasing trend towards elec-ECsoft, a fledgling computer tronic commerce, with Internet consultancy group floated on access becoming prerequisite

for many customer projects." The profit growth contrasts the experience of many "go-go" Net commerce stocks, such as company said: "In the course of ing huge sales booms but have

ECsoft specialises in the provision of computer solutions to businesses. These include e-commerce solutions and Internet access.

Recent contracts have included an Internet banking system for a Scandinavian bank, and a new Internet booking systems for a cruise liner which allows the operator to bypass travel agents. Clients

include BT, Esso and Unisys.

the company has been the provision of data warehousing systems enabling retailers to analyse buying patterns of cus-

tomers who have loyalty cards. To help support its growth, ECsoft has recruited the ecommerce team from Digital,

the computer group. The bumper profits pushed

Another productive area for company at £250m. The comparty is expected to acquire other software businesses in France and the Benelux region as well as smaller firms in the UK and Scandinavia

ECsoft said it had not focused too strongly on Year 2000 compliance work, which it says currently accounts for about 10 per cent of its total sales. Group ECsoft shares up by 52.5p to a sales rose by 41 per cent to new high of 2,1925p, valuing the reach £62.2m.

SPORT

The Arsenal manager's raid on the illustrious Gallic football academy has been condemned in his native land

Wenger's coup leaves French looking for spies

chodrama!" With a smile and an outstretched hand, André Merelle strode across the foyer of France's Institut National de Football. "Let me introduce you to spy number one," he said. Outside, on a garden path overshadowed by a 10ft-high gold replica of the World Cup, two middle-aged men stood talking. One of them broke off to shake hands

Merelle indicated the other man. "This is spy number two." There was wry laughter. "And you may call me spy number

André Mérelle, Claude Dusseau and Joachim Francisco Filho, grouped together in the ornamental garden of a French château, with a mist clinging to the surrounding forest. In a setting fit for the three musketeers, here were the three spies. The villains of French football. Traitors to the cause, And spies, worst of all, for the perfidious English.

Two weeks ago, the news broke that Arsene Wenger had signed yet another French player for his Highbury squad. And this time the boy was barely old enough to lace his own boots. Still two months away from his 16th birthday, Jeremie Aliadière bad been signed to a reported sevenyear contract worth about

In France, the response was immediate and heated. "It's a disgrace," Noël Le Graët, the president of the French league announced. "His coaches, his teachers and his parents should ask themselves a few ouestions about this auction of a child of 15."

Who is Jérémie Aliadiere? A centre-forward whose potential had been spotted at the age of seven and now, with five appearances in the national under-15 side to his name, a star of the junior teams of Racing Club de France. And from Monday to Friday a student at the INF, the institute in the grounds of the Château Montjoye at Clairefontaine, the former country home of a member of the Lazard banking family. where Dusseau, Filho and Mérelle are the guardians of a project that has been described as the key to the technical policy of French football, a policy whose integrity had suddenly come under threat.

ODI Stre Con 2.3! Ene 3.4! Ste 1.4! Littl

The French are very aware that their best players usually find fame and fortune outside their own frontiers. Of the 11 who started the World Cup final on the eve of Bastille Day, only two were playing for clubs in the French league, Fans and administrators alike are proud of the way French talent earns such practical recognition abroad, but are sensitive about the implications for the standing of the domestic game. And now the flower of French football had been plucked before it had even come into bud.

in outbidding the representatives of FC Rennes, who of-



RICHARD WILLIAMS

Wenger had also seen off firm interest not just from several other French clubs, led by Paris St-Germain, but from

Barcelona and Internazionale. "It's not just a financial decision," Laurent Aliadière, the boy's father, told journalists. "We're not a poor family. If we chose Arsenal, it was because of what was offered on the sporting side. Certainly, football is a professional sport, and money is part of it. But we liked what Arsène Wenger had to say.

"London is only an hour from Paris by plane, two hours by train. If he'd joined Monaco, say it would have been worse on that level. So it wasn't a gesture against the French clubs, it was just that Arsenal showed us the best opportunity. I don't know how they came to hear of signed for an anateur club, him. But he's played in the Racing de France. Then they know how they came to hear of

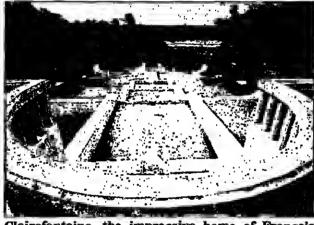
line. The finger of suspicion pointed firmly at Dusseau, the institute's director, and Filho and Merelle, his coaches. Two days later Mérelle sat in

for spies" was L'Ecuipe's head-

the institute's refectory, tucking into a blanquette de veau, mulling over l'affaire Aliadière, and preparing his defence against the charges of espionage and treason.

"Football is small world," he said, "and today it's all about money. But we're not advisers in this respect. We're not agents. We're very cautious about that, because when a professional club here can't get a boy to sign with them, they tend to say, 'Ah well, the coaches at the institute advised him to go elsewhere.' The big clubs want the best young players, and when they don't get them, they become suspicious."-

Aliadière had played alongside his own son in a local team up to the age of 13. "Then we took him into the school here. At that point he could have registered for Paris St-Germain. They would have liked to sign him, and five of our other boys are with them. But the father knew that if he signed the registration card, that would be like a contract. He wanted his son to be able to make a decision later. So he



Clairefontaine, the impressive home of France's Institut National de Football

good explanation, non?"

Not as far as the furious Le Graet was concerned. "Here is a boy, educated and coached within the national structures of French football, who leaves for the highest bidder," he raged. What happened is obvious. Let's call a spade a spade. Arsène Wenger has an employee stalking the corridors of the Institute."

A week after Le Graet's outburst, a general council meeting of the French federation and the league agreed to form a commission of inquiry into the affair, in order to discover if employees of the institute at Clairefontaine had indeed acted as intermediaries between the player and the English club. "The FFF hunts

national under-15s. That's a waited for other clubs to ask about him. They had many discussions. He chose the best, in his father's view."

> According to Mérelle, he and his fellow coaches never played a part in such decisions. "But still we find ourselves accused of directing this player to that club. Or if two of our boys join the same club, it's said that we've been paid to send them. But this time it's

> The trouble, Merelle said, is that French football clubs are not rich enough to keep their st players. "Even after the World Cup," he said, "we don't have big crowds. Television fees aren't as big as they are in England. We are not a very important country for football. We are not fanatics. So the

On Monday

Richard Williams on the enigma of Nicolas Anelka

players go abroad, they learn. they grow in experience, and it's good for the national team."

Two of the Institute's recent graduates exemplify that phenomenon. Thierry Henry, the 20-year-old winger who starred in last summer'a World Cup campaign before moving from Monaco to Juventus last month, is one graduate. Arsenal's 19-year-old Nicolas Anelka is another

Sixty boys from the Paris region, aged between 13 and 16. are currently receiving instruction at Clairefontaine. A further 240 boys pass through six other centres around the country. All of them are weekly boarders, staying in a dormitory building in the château's grounds. From Monday to Friday, they go by coach to local schools and then train from four o'clock to six o'clock. On Friday nights their parents arrive to take them home. On Sundays the boys play for the junior sides of their clubs before returning

"Last year we had applications from 450 boys," Mérelle said. "We picked 24. Each year two or three are eliminated, and we end up with a final year of 18 boys. We try to take the most skilful players. There's no question of size or strength. It's just the skills. And speed, We try to take speedy boys.

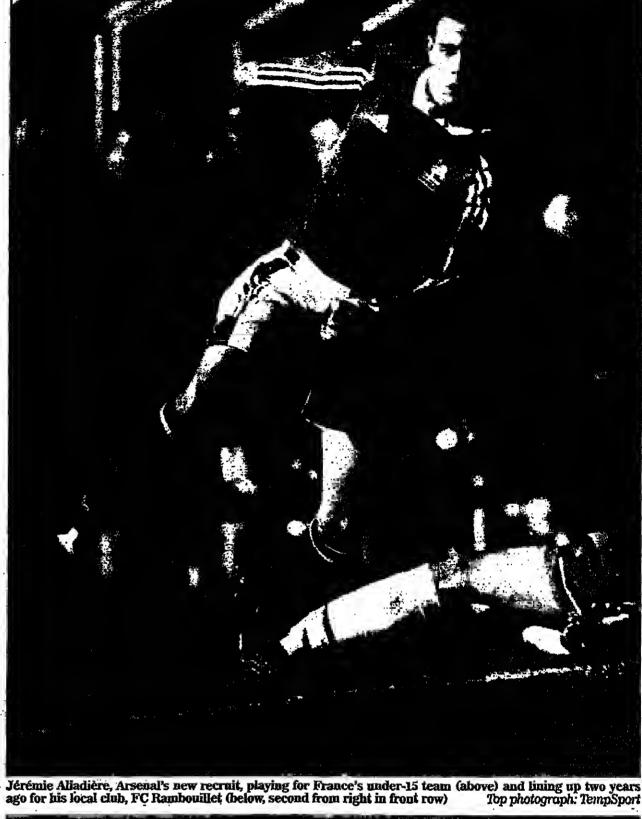
to the institute in the evening.

"What we notice is that the skilful players also have the best understanding of the game. They're more attuned. Of course, some boys will grow up and their physical potential will be their main quality. Or some will be not so skilful but they are so speedy that they can have some success. But when they have both speed and skill, that is a good thing."

The afternoon training consists almost entirely of games and drills aimed at developing technique. "There's very little physical education. Everything is with the ball. We have a gymnasium, but we use it for playing foothall. When they play football for two hours, the boys are running and jumping, and just by playing they are developing their endurance. We test them from time to time, and the tests prove we are right, because they do as well in physical tests as the rest of the national under-15 or under-

16 squads. Sometimes better." Nor is tactical education a priority. "In the first two years we don't teach them team building because we have no team. Only in the third year does the institute have a team. We concentrate on the first principles of the game. But not strategy. That comes later."

The importance of schoolwork, on the other hand, is stressed from the start. "They follow the normal studies, like any French children. Some are What we say is, 'OK, you were selected to come here because you are good at football, but the most important thing is studies. At the end of the three years





pable of joining a professional club or not.' Most of them do. But even if you do, we say, you must know that out of five, six, or seven, only one will become a professional footballer. So good, some are not so good. you have to work at school, too."

All this costs about £6.000 a year for each boy, which is about what it would cost to send him to a minor English public school. And that, apart from the here we shall see if you're ca- principle of the thing, is what

has raised hackles in the Aliadière affair. A national investment has directly benefited a foreign enterprise.

"I don't know what can be done to prevent it," Mérelle said. "Maybe the parents could sign a paper promising to sign a contract with a French club when the boy leaves the institute. But maybe that wouldn't be legal. Or they could promise, if he signed with a foreign club, to pay the federation back." In the case of Jérémie Aliadiere, it's too late for that.

So what kind of a player is he? "Sort of... Van Basten," Mérelle said, with a note of fondness in his voice. "Looks like him. Tall, slim, speedy, scores goals. Good player."

in the spring, the talent in question will pack his bags and be driven down the tree-lined avenues of Clairefontaine for

the last time - untouched, one can only hope, by the current psychodrama. A few weeks later he will arrive in London, where he will settle into accommodation with his grandparents, deputed to act as chaperones during his first two years in England. And then the rest of us may begin to learn what France has lost and Arsenal has gained.

Welcome to new Olympic sport of bluff and

GENERAL BARRY R McCaffrey, director of the White House Drug Policy Office, had concluded his briefing. For a man who was deployed to ring-fence Columbia's illegal drug operation, shaking up the International Olympic Committee on their home turf was pretty straightforward stuff.

8.451

Accordingly, the general had told the World Conference on Doping in Sport that the guardians of the Olympic movement need to get democratic, pro-active and financialiy accountable. Soon. This message did not appear to go down well. At the conclusion of the Lausanne conference, the beleaguered 78-year-old whose infirm hand still guides this



MIKE ROWBOTTOM

wealthy private club made what might have been an accidental reference to his McCarthy'

What Juan Antonio Sama-

ranch clearly believes is a witch-hunt appears to the outside observer as no more than the pursuit of the blindingly obvious. But seeing is not believing whenever the IOC gather to arrange their affairs.

On the eve of the conference, Samaranch had issued a long list of corrections over media inaccuracies, pointing out that had had asked "several years ago" that people stop referring to him as "excellency", the diplomatic title from his days as Spanish ambassador. As the opening speaker at the conference rose to address the gathered membership, you can guess the first word which is-

sued from his mouth. Change

takes time in the IOC.

porting this latest initiative featured the word "doping" beneath pictures of athletes whose features were blocked out by what resembled a blindfold. The connotations were unfortunate: a lack of vision, if not something more wilful

But to return to the departing figure of General McCaffrey. As his entourage gathered around, one figure broke away from the group and paused beside a reporter before placing one word confidentially into his ear. "Background." The reporter prepared himself. "This is cabinet-approved," rasped his mysterious new friend, before moving away. A few seconds later he was

back again in confidential mode. "Deep background," he announced, before supplying information of such profound import that it dropped straight out of the startled reporter's mind. The multi-layered Ameri-

can approach, as it happened, was appropriate for a three-day event dominated by rancour, uncertainty and conflicting rumour. Anonymous faxes had circulated detailing the supposed indiscretions of the man widely seen as Samaranch's successor, Dick Pound. Who sent them? Someone thought they knew. Someone else thought it was more complicated than it seemed...

Samaranch was being undermined by a rank-and-file

revolt over the new proposal that they could no longer vote for bidding cities. No he wasn't. The whole thing had been headed off with a deal. No it hadn't, because Samaranch said he was unaware of any such deal. But, no, he wasn't

really unaware... A new test for human growth hormone would be in place by the 2000 Olympics after the success of a fouryear, IOC-finded research project. No it wouldn't. The test would be held up by further verification requiring another \$5m (£3.1m). No it wouldn't, said the research leader. Everything was still on course for Sydney.

The conference was a suc-

cess, said Samaranch. It es-

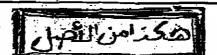
anti-doping agency and put in place a two-year minimum ban for doping. No it wasn't a success, said attending governments, because they had yet to agree with the IOC over how to run or fund the agency, and the words "exceptional circumstances" in the rule on sanctions provided a get-out clause.

tablished a new \$25m (£15m)

Much of the conference debate was well suited to the Olympic environment, forming as it did a linked sequence of perfectly circular arguments. Sebastian Coe, a member of one of the contributing working parties, looked like a man in need of serious diversion as he took a short break from the inaction on Wednesday,

One of my colleagues came up with just the thing to liven up Seb's day - an invitation to a sports bar in town where he could watch his team, Chelsea, play Oxford United on satellite television. Unfortunately, the bar turned out not to have the correct channel. So when the double Olympic champion and former MP walked in, all he had

to watch was recorded skiing. But at least my friend was able to look on the bright side. Had it not been for a hold-up at a dinner for European sports ministers, that other well known Chelsea fan, Tony Banks, would have turned up as well. And he would probably have been less polite about it



Five Nations' Championship: Scotland's coach in bullish form as Wales suffer late withdrawal of prop Young

Telfer puts Scotland in mood to attack

red in his matter land \$ IF HISTORY and the form book BY DAVID LLEWELLYN do not manage to convince in Edinburgh anyone, then the late withdrawal of Dai Young from Wales' front row must go a long way to persuading fans that the heat will be on the Dragons at Murrayfield today, where a more confident Scotland will be looking to record their sixth win in seven matches on their own turf.

Young injured a calf muscle in training on Thursday and the decision to replace him with the Swansea prop Chris Anthony was taken at lunchtime yesterday. It leaves booker Jon Humphreys as the sole member of the Wales frontfive with any experience of

Scotland coach, was in upbeat mood and attacking mode as he looked forward to this afternoon's game. Despite having coached his team to just one victory in eight full Tests since he took charge last year, he insisted: "We have been very competitive against Wales in the last 10 years and we have generally come out on top. We certainly have no inferiority complex as far

as Wales are concerned." Having accounted for the Dragons he rounded on the politicians in the game saying: What is more I would say there is more of a buzz up here than there has been in the past three or four years, simply

much politicking off the field. The public is sick of people pontificating about what should be done. They want to see players doing their stuff on the field."

Telfer in bullish mood is not someone to take into the game's china shop of administration and diplomacy. He clearly also wanted to strike a blow for the Celtic cause, especially in the light of what has gone on in Five Nations during the last 10 years. England and France have

won the championship four times each, compared with a solitary championship each for Scotland and Wales.

"I don't think there is that much difference between the teams," he said. "The Celtic nations are far less fearful of the

players with terrific qualities. I known at this level, there is no wish they were Welsh actually. denying his blistering pace. viously. We played reasonably "Gregor Townsend is a well at the back end of last year and we have taken something proven player. When I was with

Auckland Blues I made some from that. Normally we are an outside bet, but I think we have inquiries about his availability a reasonable chance of beating for the Super 12s. We rate Townsend very highly in that That they do. Their pack will certainly give the Welsh plenty to think about. Young had part of the world." Henry, who is making his

Five Nations debut as a coach, is not exactly oozing confidence: "I'm a little nervous. There's so much tradition and history behind this tournament. It means so much to so many people."

Not least the 22 players in red shirts. If the pack can provide any sort of platform against the very competitive Scots, then the Wales backs will certainly threaten. While Matthew Robindenying his blistering pace.

The Wales centres Allan Bateman and Scott Gibbs will give their counterparts John Leslie and Townsend a hard time. According to Bateman, Gibbs is better than ever. "Scott has always been the fulcrum of the back line since I came back to Wales," he said.

A great player. But there is something extra in his game this year. I can't quite put my finger on it, but he is really flying. He is back on the boil."

"He's a mammoth of a man.

Whether this condition is infectious enough to spread to the rest of the side is another matter. The only certainty is that this match is not a foregone

SCOTLAND v WALES C Murray ___Edinburgh Remers 14 D James... . Pont-pndd Brive 13 A Bateman

.Glasgow Cal 12 S GibbsGlasgow Cal C Anthony. ... P Burnell ...London Scottish 3 Bedford __Edinburgh Revers

Replacements: 16 5 Longstaff (Glasgow); 17 A Tak (Ed:nburgh); 18 I Fairley (Edinburgh); 19 B Pount-ney (Northampton); 20 5 Grimes (Glasgow); 21 D Hilton (Bath); 22 5 Brotherstone (Edinburgh). Replacements 1.6 K Morgan (Pontypridd): 1.7 M Taylor (Swansea): 1.8 D Lewellyn (Ebbav Vale): 1.9 G Lewis (Pontypridd): 2.0 M Voyle (Llanelli). 2.1 A Lewis (Cardiff): 2.2 S Williams (Richmond).

Referee: E Morrison (England).



been brought into the side by

Graham Henry to beef up the

scrummage, now Anthony, with

just a handful of games for his

Henry, the Welsh coach,

singled out the Leslie brothers

John (centre) and Martin

(flanker), sons of former All

Black captain Andy Leslie, as

ones to watch in the Scotland

team. "They are very good

chib, must do the business.

Allan Bateman, the Wales, Lions and Richmond centre, is put through his paces at a training session ahead of Wales' Five Nations opener against Scotland at Murrayfield this afternoon

The ageless art of Allan Bateman

IT WAS somehow typical of Allan Bateman that he should have timed his return to fully fledged Red Dragonhood to coincide with all the holding of back pages and locking up of daughters that accompanied Will Carling's latest attentiongrabbing publicity coup. At the precise moment England's shop-soiled silver-spooner was seeking salvation inside a multi-coloured Harlequins shirt - camera, lights and cue the sincerity - Bateman was sitting in a limelight-free corner of a Cardiff hotel lounge, discussing his own rather more significant comeback in the only manuer he has ever found agreeable. Quietly and without fuss.

MAN . E. SAMPLE . LANCE .

to the law.

there's not much breathing space these days, is there?" he said, his gentle Maesteg lilt noticeably unaffected by a sporting sojourn that has taken him from the Welsh Valleys to swinging Richmond via the rugby league beartlands of arrington and Sydney. "It's not that I'm getting old; I may look old, but I really don't feel it. I'm just saying that with remiership rugby as intense as it is and a Five Nations' Championship in full flow, there's no respite. And to think Richmond have just drawn Leicester in the [Tetley's Bitter] Cup. That'a nice, isn't it, sand-

"It's lovely to be back, but

In a season dogged by injury, the craftsman centre has made a timely return to fitness for a revitalised Wales side determined to leave its mark on the Five Nations. By Chris Hewett

tional against Ireland and another in Paris?"

Bateman will survive, of course. True craftsmen always do and, according to his peers. there are none truer than the 33-year-old Lion who resumes his international career against Scotland at Murrayfield this afternoon Blessed with an outside break very nearly as smooth as Jeremy Guscott's and anticipation almost as sharp as Tim Horan's, he organises defences with the precision of a Phil de Glanville and runs Stéphane Glas angles better than Stéphane Glas. If be does not leave his opponents in need of a restorative session with the local panel-beater, like his spherical countryman Scott. Gibbs, his tackling still has a ribtickling crispness about it. What is more, be is enjoying the sort of timeless longevity that made Frank Bunce an All Black

Agreed, be cannot boast much of a kicking game - during a punting session on the 1997 Lions tour of South Africa, Tim Rodber memorably asked him: "Are you sure you're not left-footed, Al?" He may even be on the slippery slope, in so far as he has made his annual wiched between an ioterna- mistake unusually early in the

year "Oh yes, the Leicester match," he laughed, recalling Anything but. Richmond's Premiership One

defeat by the Tigers 11 days ago. "I thought I'd given their defence the slip, but as I took off towards the line I realised I was a mile in touch and everyone else had stopped." That's obviously his problem. No spatial awareness. In all seriousness, though, he

remains the closest approxi-mation to a model professional currently at work in the

half or so has been a cakewalk.

To begin with, Bateman was officially declared, by no less an authority than Fran Cotton, the unluckiest Lion of the '97 pride. He produced his fair share of masterpieces during that neverto-be-forgotten campaign; indeed, his performances against the Emerging Springboks in Wellington and the mean-eyed enforcers of the Free State in Bloemfontein were definitive statements of the centre's art.

and the shoulder job that cost him two caps last November. ate leave from duty against The hardest knock of all, though, affected him emotionally rather than physically; in fact, it devastated him for the best part of last pulled the Welsh scarlet a month. Bateman was preparing for the final match of last season's Five Nations, a lip-smacking Wembley set-to with the Grand Slam-chasing French, when his daughter

Naomi, then six, lost more than 90 per cent of her sight.

'I know people are talking about us, even more than they usually do. Quite honestly, though, I'd settle for any sort of win in Scotland'

northern bemisphere game. Well as Mark Taylor, the Swansea centre, performed in Bateman's injury-induced absence as Wales recovered some long-lost credibility against South Africa and Argentina before Christmas, the smart money was always riding on an early return to the status quo. Graham Henry, the Welsh coach, knows plenty about this strange old game and one of the things be knows best of all is that Bateman is an absolute diamond.

Not that the last year and a

The selectors, however, were always going to stick with their original iron fist/velvet glove combination of Gibbs and Guscott. Had be not been confronted by rivals equipped with unique and complementary gifts, Bateman's would have been the first name on the team-sheet. As it was, be had to wait until Guscott broke an arm in the final Test before getting a run at the Bokke midfield.

Then the hard knocks began to kick in. There was the nose job that denied him a second visit to South Africa last summer

Angling Times, a former UK

champion pike record holder

(36lb in 1988). There was lots

this week "Naomi was struck by some sort of airborne virus and her sight went in the space of an bour. Just like that. Gone. For three weeks, we just didn't know what was going to happen. And then, her vision returned. It was the most extraordinary thing and I still find it difficult to work it all out, although I've since beard of other people suffering something similar. She's fine now, thank God. In fact, she had her eves tested only last week and she has better than

average vision for her age."

the Tricolores and thanks to his subsequent bumps and bruises, it is now 10 months since he over his wise old head. For the average thirty-something, such

a lengthy career break would in-evitably have evolved into something permanent, especially as Wales are not as short of midfield options as they are of Test-quality prop forwards. The words "Bateman" and "average" are not often seen in close proximity, however.

"I didn't have the faintest

idea whether or not I'd be playing until Monday morning," he said, "and when Graham told me I was in, I just nodded and said Thanks very much'. It was all I needed to know. Mark had two excellent outings in the pre-Christmas Tests and I'd have understood it if I'd been put on the bench for this one. He'll be disappointed, of course, but be has a few years on me, a career ahead of him as opposed to one that's largely behind him. Mind you, I've got my eyes on the World Cup this autumn. I feel every bit as good about myself as I did five or six years ago; I've been playing rugby and, more importantly, training to play rugby for 16 years now and I'm in decent shape. I've another year left with Richmond and I won't look beyond that until I have to."

And so to Murrayfield, where Wales are more strongly fancied than at any time since the honey-sweet days of Gareth, JPR and the Viet Gwent

Typically, Bateman is sidestepping the bype like Phil Bennett on spring heels. "Sure, Graham has given us a great deal of belief. He's very bright, very capable and he gives players the confidence they need to do the required job. But things can go badly wrong in this game, almost without you noticing. By the time you wake up to the fact, you're buried.

"Look at Twickenham last year, when we started perfectly well against England, went points up and ended up losing by 60. You feel so belpless when that happens to you; when every tackle is just out of reach and every opposition drive goes that little bit too far. You have to stay right on your game for the full 80 if you're going to get anything out of a Five Nations international. I know people are talking about us, even more than they usually do at the start of a Championship. Quite bonestly, though, I'd settle for any sort of win in Scotland. That would do nicely."

Gallagher throwing old boys into fray

Kick-off: + i5 (850 ↔

IT MAY have escaped people's notice amid all the hype surrounding Will Carling's comeback with Harlequins, but the reason for the former England captain being picked for bench duty this afternoon for the visit of Allied Dunbar Premiership One leaders Leicester, is the fact that Quins are sbort-staffed, writes David Llewellyn.

Zinzan Brooke and Thierry Lacroix are injured, as is Rob Liley; international duty has further claimed David Officer (Scotland A) and booker Keith Wood (Ireland). The midfield crisis in particular is acute. forcing manager John Gallagher to turn to the former England captain who last played 13 months ago, as well as calling up another former Harlequin, David Pears, to start the game at stand-off.

"With Rob Liley injured we needed a specialist outside half," explained Gallagher. Pears, November's Jewson Player of the Month for his performances for Wharfedale in National League One, lives conveniently near The Stoop

He last played for the London side in November 1995 before yet another injury sidelined the unluckiest man in rugby. Pears has suffered damage to practically every part of his body and were it not for that the talented stand-off would have won more than his four

England caps. Leicester are not far short of full strength and are expected to pull four points clear at the top, although second-placed Saracens could well come away with both points at Northamp ton, who have lost four players to various Scottish teams.

Wasps do not have the problem of Test calls. Kenny Logan plays for Scotland today before flying back from Edinburgh to play on the wing against Bath at Loftus Road tomorrow, a match which kicks off at 2.30pm. Rob Henderson, on the Ireland bench today, is similarly expected to do his bit for the club, Bath scrum-half Gareth Cooper has recovered from a fractured eye socket, while Mike Tindall comes in for Ire-

land centre Kevin Maggs. The London Irish captain. Conor O'Shea, and Justin Bish op, both in the Ireland team to face France today, are on the bench for the visit of Glouces ter tomorrow. The West Country side have axed full-back Chris Catling, replacing him with Mark Mapletoft, while Simon Mannix comes in at

The insidious allure of Mick Jagger and the pike

SCARY, LOVE, obsession, toothy, prehistoric, predators, stealthy. Those are all words inspired by a tiny word: pike. Like all things that are not fully understood, people are scared of pike, although they are loved and obsessed over by the men that fish for them. Pike are predators. They eat trout and cuddly things like ducks, but they will eat anything smaller, sicker and more feeble than themselves. And that gives them quite a choice: the current UK pike record is 46lb 1302. Then there's the teeth very many of them in the large flat jaw that seems far too big for the mean, little head.

But - and I knew this would happen - when you meet them m the flesh, pike make you fall in love with them. A bit like ANNALISA BARBIERI ON FISHING



Mick Jagger: you see pictures of him and think: What's the fuss about?", but see him in the flesh and it seems the attraction is obvious. Pike are really beautiful fish, weird looking, but awesome none the less. And, contrary to popular belief, pike don't attack you. They only bite if you put your hand in their mouth.

Pike, kennel name Eaox Lucius, are solitary bunters. Their bodies are torpedo

shaped and built for short, aggressive bursts of activity. They live in clear water in rivers. lakes and reservoirs and lurk around the bottom, in weed beds, waiting for their prey. Their bodies are perfectly marked for this subterfuge, camouflaging them amidst the vegetation. They are mysterious, dignified creatures; Ted

Hughes even wrote a poem for So it was that I was beside

of equipment that was alien to me as a fly-fisherman. Wire trace in the place of nylon tippet (which pike would bite clean off) and a freezer box full of frozen dead fish in place of beautiful flies in Wheatley fly boxes. There were mackerel, smelt and hideous lampreys which are vile, blood sucking creatures so their corpses were now full of frozen blood. The shoe designer, Oliver Sweeney, a keen fisherman, had advised me to take frozen sardines, which he said the

melt in the water the smell

going pike fishing with my said. But I decided not to ular! None of this constant friend, Mick Rouse, from the interfere with what Mick want casting around, watching your ed to do, although he too fly or line for fish activity. agreed that sardines were excellent bait, but that they disintegrated quickly as their flesh was soft. We went to Tallington

Lakes in Lincolnshire and had the place all to ourselves, which was good - all the fish were potentially ours. We set up two pike rods each, most with drop-back indicators that let out an electronic beep when a fish bit, and 15lb nylon line. This was the first revelation for me with coarse fishing; once you have cast out you can sit back and do nothing, just waiting for the drop pike would go mad for - as they back to tell you there is a fish on the end of the line. No won-

Two of the rods, however, were set up with bite-indicators that needed a bit of work on the fisherman's part. One was a sight indicator and one

a drift float. The latter is a squareshaped flag that floats above the water by virtue of the polyball underneath it. It was cast out and the flag acted as a sail that took the bait far out. much further than you could ever cast. If this flag bobs under the water, you know a fish is at the end of the line, so you strike. The line used with this set-up needs to be different: nylon line can stretch when wet and that would be no

myself with excitement at brings pike from all around, he der coarse fishing is so pop- good when you're trying to reel in acres of line, so we used Fox braid no-stretch line and cast it out 60 yards. At the end was a smelt, a fish that smells deliciously of cucumber.

> It was about 11.30am when all was set and Mick said that usually the pike bit at 11 o'clock and then again at 4pm. So we cast and hung around, and if there was no activity we recast again in a different place after half an hour or so. In this cold weather, fish are extremely lethargic so you have to find them and dangle the bait right over their nose. After a couple of hours, Mick got out a syringe. Aye, aye, I thought. We're going to jack up. But no. Mick got a mackerel bait that had been in the water and

"refresh" it. Pike feed by smell. sight and vibration. Then, bang on the 4 o'clock,

just as Mick and I were chatting about some nonsense we looked round and the drift float had gone. He struck, a pike was on. He handed the rod to me and I played the fish in. which involved lots of hauling the rod back, reeling in fast, hauling the rod back, etc. A bit like sea fishing. At this point we had more than 200 yards of line out so there was lots of hauling to be done. But very soon (they are lethargic remember) the pike was in. He weighed 10lb 11oz and I held my breath at his beauty, which is something I've never done with Mick Jagger. Tallington Lakes (01778) 347000

injected it with fish oil to abarbieri@independent.co.uk

Erratic Britons miss the cut

LEE WESTWOOD and Darren Clarke, the two pre-tournament favourites, crashed out of the Benson and Hedges Malaysian Open yesterday.

Clarke's worst round for more than two and a half years sent him on his way by lunchtime and then, after a five-hour wait, he was joined by Westwood, whose four-overpar total of 148 proved one too

many.
While America's Gerry Norquist had his second successive 67 to put him on 10under-par total and secure a five-stroke lead, Clarke's 79 meant he was near the rear of the 150-strong field on 11 over.

The last time the Ulsterman, second to Colin Montgomerie on last season's Order of Merit, scored higher than that was when he took 80 in the 1996 Scottish Open at Carnoustie.

Westwood, having also opened with a 76, had an eagle at the 520-yard 13th as he compiled a second-round 72, but it was not enough.

Clarke, who has not played since November, described his performance as "shockingly bad". adding "I came here with such high hopes, but there was nothing positive in that at all.

"Everything was unbelievably bad. I practised OK, but as soon as I teed up in the compehiion I was totally unable to hit it on the right side of the flag. The course is set up tough and I just kept hitting it in the rough."

Westwood, returning after an eight-week break, summed up his display with the words "very rusty" and "very scrappy".

The Ryder Cup pair were hreakfast time yesterday to com-

set the tone for the day.

THE CZECH Tennis Association

yesterday initiated disciplinary

proceedings against their

countryman Petr Korda, who

failed a drug test at Wimbledon.

and suspended him from play-

ing in his home country for a

The CTA earlier had de-

manded suspension of Korda,

to no avail. A Czech news

agency said the start of the dis-

ciplinary proceedings means he

cannot play on Czech territory

by the ban, however, since he

gave up Davis Cup tennis for

the Czech Republic last year

and seldom appears at home.

dent appeals committee

appointed by the International

Tennis Federation announced

In December, an indepen-

Korda will be little affected

until the case is finished.

Korda suspended by

Czech association

The ipr

OD Stre Con 2.3! Ene 3.4 Ste 1.4(Litt Ste 7.1(9.2)

STE NEI HOI Stra 4.0: Stel 4.4

The 2.1(7pm Stair 1.45 12m Grow Little The Egyl Sha 4.15 1.15 Very 10p

By MARK GARROD in Kuala Lumpur

round after a short break, he had a double-bogey at the sec-ond after a wild drive into a ditch and came home in a dreadful 42 with four bogeys and another double to finish.

Westwood had four holes of his first round to play on the resumption and finished them by taking three putts on the 18th for a bogey six.

When he did the same on the short 12th - his third of the second round - he knew he needed to improve if he was to

On the very next hole the world No 6, winner of the event in 1997 and loser in a play-off last year, cut a superb five-wood over some trees on to the green at the 13th and holed from 20 feet for his eagle.
Twelve successive pars then

followed before a bogey on the 413-yard eighth and a closing par left him dependent on others.

"It's about what I expected after eight weeks off," he said. "From walking 30 miles a week I've not been walking at all and you're bound to lose some strength.

Norquist, winner of the title in 1993 and second on the Asian money list three years ago, is five clear of a group of four: the Rochdale-born defending champion, Ed Fryatt, who has lived most of his life in Las Vegas, the Spaniard Tomas Munoz, the South Korean Choi Kyoung-ju and another American, Dean Wilson.

Greg Norman missed the cut back on the Saujana course at for the first time in 22 years on Australian home soil yesterday, plete first rounds held over be- in the tournament bearing his cause of lightning on Thursday. name. The former world No 1 eight-foot birdie attempt on the man International at The 14th, but he knocked it five feet Lakes, Sydney, an event he past and missed the return. It won last year, after adding a second round 76 to the 77 he Setting off on his second shot on Thursday.

that Korda was guilty of a

doping offence. He tested pos-

itive for nandrolone after his

quarter-final Wimbledon defeat

Korda should have been sus-

how the drug got into his sys-

tem. Meanwhile, Korda

ation," the CTA chairman,

Karei Papousek, said yesterday.

"The ITF has its own policy. Our

decision is based on the fact

that we are signatories to the

international agreements against doping."

"This is a paradoxical situ-

remains free to play.

According to ITF rules,

by Tim Henman last year.

Maier prepared to face 'Birds of Prey'

of Prey" but Hermann Maier has no intention of doing any flying in the World Championship downhill at Beaver Creek, Colorado. A year ago, the Austrian memorably hurtled through the air to disaster at the

Nagano Winter Olympics but

THE PISTE is called "The Birds

came back to win two golds. He would happily settle for less excitement in today's World Championship downhill

providing his endeavours result

in a gold medal. Maier was cautious coming into the championships, saying more experienced downhill skiers, such as Norway's Lasse Kjus, would have an advantage on the demanding piste. However, after sharing the gold medal with Kius in Tuesday's

G. Maier feels he is relaxed enough to deliver a top performance in the blue riband race.

A skier tackles the men's slalom at the Asian Winter Games at Yongpyong, South Korea, which attracted 1,300 competitors and officials from 16 countries

"There was a lot of pressure on me as everyone expected me to win the super-G," he said. "A heavy weight was lifted off my shoulders, now I can enjoy myself here."

Yet the Austrian warned that the difficulty of the course should not be underestimated championship-opening super- and that Kjus, the World Cup

downhill leader, was the favourite. "I like the slope and can do well here, but Kjus will be a tough rival," said Maier, who has won only a single World Cup downhill this season

while Kjus has clinched four. Kjus, who has had a recurring sinus infection during the northern winter, said he will not be going flat out. "Downhill racing is dangerous and I,

therefore, never take every

ans may have an advantage over me," said Kjus, the downhill silver medallist at both the 1997 World Championships and 1998 Olympics. "But Maier and I are not the only ones who can win here. There are a lot of other Austrians and [Norwegian team-mate Kjetil Andre) Aamodt. The biggest challenge for Aamodt and myself is to beat

risk. This is where the Austri-

winner of the second World Cup downhill at Val Gardena in December and silver and bronze downhill medallist at the last two world championships, was surprised with his strong performance in training runs here. "Last year I was negative about this course because it's too technical and then I won the ruce. This is not the type of downhill

West back at Wigan to head youth policy

years ago to become Wigan's chief scout. West, who spent 13 years at Central Park as a player and a coach, also lost his job coaching Widnes last year and is now returning to Wigan as part of a backroom reorganisation.

While the former New Zealand Test forward takes the versatile Reber would responsibility for identifying young talent, two other former Wigan players, Ged Byrne and Ged Stazicker, will coach the Academy side. Last year's Academy coach, Billy McGinty, has moved up to the Under-21 reserve side, while the Great Britain coach, Andy Goodway, will concentrate on assisting

John Monie with the first team. "We're delighted to get Graeme back on board and pended for a year, but the panel cited "exceptional circumhe's happy to be involved," said the Wigan chairman, Peter stances" saying the ban did not apply as Korda did not know Norbury. "He has the respect of everyone at the club."

West coached Wigan to a Grand Slam of the major domestic honours in 1995, but was fired by a previous board in February 1997 when he refused to be moved upstairs into an administrative role.

Meanwhile, Wigan are hoping to get their new Australian, Mark Reber, on to a

BY DAVE HADFIELD

flight to Britain this weekend, despite insisting that the sight of Tony Smith on crutches is a precautionary measure. Smith, Wigan's only senior scrum-half. twisted an ankie in the friendly at Halifax on Wednesday and provide ideal cover.

Their opponents in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup tie of the round next weekend, Leeds, are in the Canary Islands for warm weather training until Monday. They will have their new signing Lee Jackson fit for the tie, but are unlikely to risk Richie Blackmore.

Widnes, may resist the temptation to give Jason Critchley his second debut on the opening day of matches in the Northern Ford Premiership

Critchley has returned to one of his former clubs after a winter playing rugby union with Newport, but only signed on Thursday night and will have little chance to get to know his new team-mates before tomorrow's match against Dewsbury. He is also Cup-tied for next weekend's match against Keighley, so the new

GRAEME WEST is returning to RUGBY LEAGUE Widnes coach, Colin Whitfield,

184 UOIG UIU DSCK

Featherstone will be without their returning invourite, Brendon Tuuta, for their opening match against Rochdale, Tunta is to rejoin his first English club after being released by Warrington, but cannot leave New Zealand because he is suffering from chicken pox. Hitro Okesene will make his competitive debut for Featherstone, one of the sides fancied to bid for the Premiership title and the prospect of promotion to Super League that goes with it.

Graeme Bradley, the former Bradford Bulls captain, has turned down offers to play in both divisions in order to join the coaching staff at Oldham. Bradley is to coach the Under-21s and assist with the first team. "If I was going to play, if would have been for Bradford," he said. "But, contrary to what some people might say about me, I want to put something back into the game."

Bradley will resume his rugby league career after retiring as a player last year with a warning hanging over him about his future conduct. He was severely censured for his comments about the referee Stuart Cummings following the play-off match at St Helens.

Derby coach's second ban

BOB DONEWALD, the Derby Storm coach, completed a tumultuous week in the club's BY RICHARD TAYLOR history yesterday by collecting another two-game ban, his sec-£300 fine of the Budweiser

League Campaign. Unless Donewald is successful with the appeal he has lodged against an earlier ban imposed last week, the 29-yearold American will miss a minimum of four games over the coming weeks including the second leg of Derby's League Trophy semi-final.

The week began with the Basketball League and English Basketball Association

BASKETBALL

amouncing a joint commission of inquiry into Derby's game at Chester Jets last Sunday, which was abandoned after 28 seconds because of fighting among the

Derby have suspended their England international Yorick Williams pending the result of the inquiry. Chester police yesterday confirmed they were still taking statements from witnesses to an alleged assault which resulted in Jet's physio, Alison Troughton, suffering a dislocated jaw.

Donewald appealed against the first ban, which cleared him to coach in Wednesday's defeat at Thames Valley Tigers and tonight's home game against Worthing Bears. How ever, the disciplinary officer of the Association could increase the punishment if he feels the appeal is unwarranted.

The ban announced vesterday came after the association considered video evidence of Donewald's behaviour against Birmingham Bullets two weeks

If he does not appeal he is banned from league games at Newcastle and at home to Edinburgh.

Beeston's battle for play-offs

BEESTON ARE at full strength after the return of their England Under 18 players returning to the squad for their home match against Gulldford tomorrow. Both teams are battling to keep in touch with the top four teams in the National League and maintain their chance of a place in the end of season play-offs.

Southeate and Reading have both been in indoor mode at Crystal Palace, but it is more important for the latter to regain their outdoor touch when the pair meet in North London Defeat for Reading, who have played a game more than their

HOCKEY BY BILL COLWILL

rivals, will once again cast doubt on their ability to reach the play-

In the First Division, Havant's match against Surbiton is crucial. With both teams striving to regain Premier League status, it will be a contest between home grown youth, on whom Havant are building their future, and experienced internationals, many South African, in whom the Surrey side

have placed their faith.

League resumes today after the mid-season break with another clash between North and South, Slough visiting Hightown. Both clubs have important postponed Fourth Round Cup games tomorrow, with-Slough travelling to non-National League Blackburn Northern, who will have Val Rohinson in their midfield. Hightown travel to Second Di-

vision Sherwood. Jane Sossmith's Sutton Coldfield, who are bottom, have a tough trip today to the League leaders, Ipswich.

BASKETBALL

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: En-roleague Second prelimbarry round: Group E: Pau-Otthez (Gr) 76 Chons Za-greb 79 (Croa) (ot). Group F: Efs Plisen |Turi 83 Varese (It) 72: Maccobi Tel Aviv |Isr| 104 Vitoria (Sp) 64. Group G: CSNA Moscow (Rus) 69 Rambystem Bologna (It) 67: Divmplakos Pransis (Fot ACC-Noscow (Rus) 69 isamiystem Bologna (II) 67: Olympiakos Piraeus (Gr.) 85 Samara (Rus) 63: Grouph IV. Villeurbaume (Fr.) 69 Zadar (Croa) 61: Real Madrid (Sp) 72 Ulk-erspor (Iur) 85: Climpila Liubijana (Sloven) 66 Alba Berlin (Ger.) 59: Kinder Bologna (IV.) 78 PAOK Salonika (Gr.) 56.

BOXING Anthony Hanna, from Birmingham, will fight for the British and Com-

will ignit for the British and Com-monwealth flyweight title In his 48th professional fight. The 24-year-old will challenge Belfast's Damaen Kelly in Manchester in March. CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHELD (Second day of foor): (Adelaide) (third day): Victoria 214 |M T G Elliott 54, 8 J Hodge 54; J N Gillespie 4-42) and 149 (8 Young 5-52); South Australia 174 (D J Salver 4-32) and 145 (Young 70; M Inness 4-25, Salver 4-48). Victoria worn by 44 Paus. (Hobart): Western Australia 358 for 9 declared (5 M Kotich 154no, R Campbell 79, C Miller 4-104); Tasmanka 252 for 6 (D Marsh 82no, O Boon 54). (Bristoneo); New South Wales 106 (J Dawes 4-30) and 117 (A Bitchel 5-35), Queensland 227 (Healy 62). Cheensland woen by an

CYCLING THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Etolle de Besseges Second stage (196km, Mintes to Sète, Pr): 1 J Planckaert (Bel)

公

Lotto 3hr 12min 22sec; 2.J Kirsipuu | Est)
Casino; 3.J Sworada | Cz Rep) Lampre; 4.
L Michaelsen (Den) Françase des jeuc 5
Fasikis | Lith) Salini-Quentin; 6.J Silovs
[Lat] Jack and Jones all same time; 7. T
Desmet | Bel] Collistro; +2 sec; 8.R Hunter
[SA] Lampre; 9.M Zinetri (It) Polit; 10.A
Pizikis (Lat) Jack and Jones 5/t. Overalli
standings: 1. O Lefevre | Fr] Casino
+öir 14min 25sec; 2.1 Volgt (Get) CredIt Agricole +4sec; 3.4 Entrill (Bel) Lotto
+9; 4.N-B Larsen (Den) Jack and Jones
+11; 5.0 Millor (GG) Coffds +13; 6.G
Salmeron (Sp) Vitaliado 5/t. 7.8 Salmon
|Fr] Casino 5/t. 8.0 Rauft (Fr) Big Mat
Auber +39; 9.J Planckaert (Bel) Lotto
+51: 1.0 G D'Hollonder | Bel) Vlandeeren
2002 +56.

FOOTBALL

Vass Borbokis, Sheffield United's walked out of the club after be walked out of the club after being refused permission to return to his homeland while out injured. Bor-bokis, who joined the English First Division side from AEK Athens 18 months ago, has returned to Greece against the club's wishes, Steve Bruce, the United manager, said yes-

Dennis Bergkamp, the Arsenal for-ward, and Edgar Davids of Juvenius will return to an attacking Dutch side for the friendly against Portugal in Paris on Wednesday. The pair missed rars on weonescay. The pair missed the march against Germany in No-wember because of injury. Ronald de Boer, also sidelined for the Germany game, was included in the 18-man sively, the options are restricted as Michael Reiziger's injury leaves no clear candidate for the right back slot.

Is made late tomorrow: Mark O'Meara, the five-time champion and Player of the Year, birdied the

NETHIRLANDS SOUAD (International friendly v Portugal, Paris, Wednesday): Goalikepers: Ricens (AZ Akman), Van der Ser (Aich), Defenders: F de Boer [Barcelona), Van Hintson (Vitesse Arthem), Stam [Marchester United), Van Wooderen (Feyenoord), Midfielders: R de Boer [Barcelona), Com [Barcelona], Davids (Jurentus), Jan Gastel (Feyenoord), Seedorf [Real Madrid), Forwards: Berghamp (Arsenal), Wellysert (Borcelona), Boossatta (AZ Akman), Mols (Utrecht), Van Westell), Van Vosset (Feyenoord), Seedorf (Arsenal), Van Vosset (Feyenoord), Van Westell), Van Vosset (Feyenoord)

Britowny, word, see (Feyencord), see (Feyencord), RESOAVS LATE RESULTS: Ason transce Combination Pirst Division; ndon 0 Norwich 2, Winstonied Kent was Premier Division; Postponed: Swindon II Norwich Z. Henscommen rem. League Premier Drivision: Postponed: Crockenhill v Romsgate. Ryman League Vandacel Trophy Taird round: Banstead Achletic I Epsom & Ewell 4 (cet), International Triendikes (Mara-calbo): Venezuela O Argentina 2 (Samuel 46. Gallardo 68); (Gustemala Ciry): Guatemala O Ecuador O.

Greg Kraft and Brett Quigley, both winless on the PGA circuit, each fired six-under par 66s to share the first-round lead at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am in California, While nonal Pro-Am in California, While some of the world's top players struggled at the Spyglass Hill Golf Club, Kraft fired a 66 at Pebble Beach Golf Links and Ougley did the same at the Poppy Hills Golf Club. Peter Jacobsen, the 1995 winner, was one stroke back in the event in which event selfer also conin which every golfer plays one round at each course before the cut

par-five 18th on Spyglass to end up with a 71. with a 71.

PEBBLE BEACH XAUDONAL PRO-AM
PEBBLE BEACH XAUDONAL PRO-AM
PGA (California) Leaders after the Brist
round (US onless statefd): 66 G Kraft.
8 Oulgies, 67 P Jarobsen. 68 J Haas, H
Frazar, F Lickitzer. 68 B Claar, P Adinger,
0 Martin. C Barlow, C Pavin. 8 Charrbise.
J Ozaki (Japan), O Hart, P Szewart, J
Williamson, V Singh (Pill), 70 B Bryant, J
McGovern, M Sposs, P Goydos, O Szeckton Jr, J Carter, J Leonard, 8 Borowicz, M
Soll, S Eldingson (Aus), F Zoeller, J Kelly,
8 Balrd, A Bratton, C Szadler, Salected
othars: 72 S Appleby (Aus), R Allenby
(Aus), R Sobotain (SA), T Dodds (SA), 73
G Chalmers (Aus), K Miyamoto (Japan), F
Nobilo (NZ), 74 G Walte (NZ), 78 S Lyle
(GB).

Minoza (Phil) 67 74: A Coltart 70 7; Chang Be-peng (Pain) 77 64. 142 P Ruke (Swe) 73 69: Chandel (Swe) 75 67. 143 P Hartington 70 73: I Randhawa (Ind) 71 72: G Owen 71 72: G Morales (Ven) 71 72: G Owen 71 72: G Morales (Ven) 73 71: C Melkon 73 71: Lin Keng-chi (Rahw) 72 72: I Rutledge (Cm) 70 74: P Haugsrud (Nor) 74 70: S Rowe (HR) 74 70: P Marksseng (Thai) 72 72: Kin Jang-chick (Nor) 73 71: C Williams (SA) 73 71: R Kartson (Swe) 74 70: J Smith (US) 71 73: 145 J Mellor 72 73: J Bicherton 73 72: O Howell 70 75: R Hustable (US) 75 70: N O'Hern (Aus) 74 71: K 70-mon (Japan) 72 73: O Chopra (Swe) 71 74: T Leves (Fr) 72 73: A McLardy (SA)

78 67: J Sandeim (Swe) 74 71; R Derksen (Neth) 74 71; P McGinley 74 71; R) His Han (Myastuar) 72 73; Chol Gwargsoc (Kor) 73 72. GB (selssed cut); 148 L Westwood 76 72. 155 0 Clarke 76 79. GREG RORMAN HOLDEN INTERNATIONAL (Sydowy) Landing second-round scores (Ans unless stated); 134 A Painter 66 68. 18-8 B Langer (Ger) 71 C5. 139 M Campbell (NZ) 67 72, 146 P O'Malley 70 70. 14 K Vokoo (Japan) 71 70; P Gow 69 72; P Sentor 67 74. 142 A Percey 70 72; M Mosley 68 74; I Senden 72 70; M Ecob 70 72; B King 68 74, 148 A Baddeley 72 71; 1 Leggert (Can) 72 71; R Standon 73 70; D Ecob 70 73; R Stephers 72 71, Selected Others: 150 A Wald (Eng) 75 75; 152 M Stephers: 150 A Vald (Eng) 75 75; 152 M Stephers (198) 74 78. 153 G Norman 77 76. TOUR'S DIMENSION DATA PRO-AM

SPORTING DIGEST

74 7E, 153 G Norman 77 76,
TOUR'S PANENSSON DATA PRO-AM
(Som CLE, SA) Leading Second round
scores: (SA miless stated): 131 S Durlap (US) 66 65, 134 B Vaughan (US) 70
64, 135 W Noery 65 70: E Canonica (It)
63 7Z, 137 O Booss 70 67, 138 J Kingson
72 66; O Garmon 66 7Z; O Crawford (SB)
67 71; H Omo 68 70, 138 M Archer (GB)
71 68; B Pappas 70 66 7Z; O Crawford (SB)
71 68; B Pappas 70 69, 140 S van Vuuren 67 73: N Price (29m) 67 73; J Loughnane 73 67: M McNutry (Zim) 74 66; M
Gortara 77 68; O Frost 74 66, 141 L Perrins 71 70; A Roestof 70 71; B Uncein
69 72. T Moore 72 69; P Quann Inr (US)
66 73; S Danleis 71 70; W Coersee 71 70.

Old Loughtonians were in impres Old Loughtonians were in impres-sive form last right in the indoor Fi-nals at Crystal Palace as they beat the Barford Tigers 10 - 6. It was very even before the 32nd minute arrival of 37-year-old Chris Gladman. With-in seconds he had scored, then went on the complete a barrick in 7 min on to complete a hat-trick in 7 min-

utes and set up two more goals for lan Jennings as the Old Boys took control. Southgate scrambled an 8-7 wh against East Grinstead who were depleted with injuries to Richard Leman and Jamie Brown Todd Leman and Jamie Brown, Todd Williams scored the winner and his winners societifie wither and his third in overtime.
INDOOR CLUB FINALS (Crystat Palace) Pool A: Oid Loughtonians 10 Bardord Tigers 6, Pool B: Bast Grinstead 7 Southgate 8.

MRL: New York Islanders 5 Boston 4: New York Rangers 8 Vancouver 4: Philadelphia 5 Montreal 2: New Jersey 2 St Louis 0: Calgary 2 Nashville 2 Jod; Phoembr 3 San Jose 1; LOS Angeles 3 Chicago 2. THORSOAY'S LATE RESULD: Sekonda Superiengoe: Ayr 1 Bracknell 3.

ICE HOCKEY

MOTOR RACING British American Racing, the Formula One newcomers, have been ordered by FIA, the sport's ruling body, to answer claims they may have brought the sport into disrepute. BAR will appear before the World Motor Sport Council of the FIA in Geneva on 12 March. BAR, owned by British American Tohaco, this by British American Tobacco, this week lost a dispute with the FIA over

be confusing for spectators. OLYMPICS

their plan to run their two cars in different liveries in 1999. The team argues that the rule restricts BAR's

continercial freedom. The FIA be-lieves this break in tradition would

The International Olympic Committee

vice-president, Kim Un-yong, has dis-missed allegations that his son was given a job in connection with the Salt Lake Gity Winter Garnes, Reports suggested that David Simmons, the former chief executive of a Utah-based company called Keystone Communications, confirmed that Kim's son was taken on by the Sim-Kim's son was taken on by the nrm at the start of the 1990s at the re-quest of the bid committee. "This has nothing to do with Salt Lake City." said Kim, one of three IOC members kim's son was taken on by the firm under investigation in the Olympic bribery scandal. SAILING

Peter Gilmour, skipper of the Nip-pon America's Cup challenge, snatched the lead after the third day snatched the lead after the third day of Australia Cup match racing yesterday. Gilmour, an Australian, and his Japanese Pizza-La Team enjoyed a steady, satisfying day on the Swan River, recording six wins in seven races. Gilmour's crew are guaranteed a place in the semi-finals, with 12 wins and four defeats. Sebastien Destremau and his Australian com-Destremau and his Australian com-patriot Neville Wittey, fifth and shith respectively, have an outside chance of making the cut.

TENNIS MARSEULES OFEN: Meen's singles, second rosmel: O Hrbary (Slovak) br Y Kafelnikov (Rus) 6-7 6-4 6-2. Ocusren-Goule: M Rosset (Swin) bt G Pouzi (it) 6-2 6-1; A Clement (Fr) bt R Federer (Swir) PRA PACIFIC OPEN (Tokyo) Momen's singles quarter-finale: J Novotro 1Cz

Repl bt N Zverena | Bela| 7-5 ret: M Seles | US| bt A Kournikova | Rus| 7-5 G-3. A Coetzer (SA) bt L Davenport (US| 2-6 G-4 G-3. M Hings | Swit) bt 5 Graf | Gert 3-6 G-2 G-4.

LTA WOMBER! S TOURNAMENT (Sheffield) Singles semi-finals: L Woodfoffe (Surrey) bt K De Wedle | Neth| 7-6 7-6 K Clijsters (Ber) bt 8 Karpenschif | Fr) G-1 G-0. [Pf] 6-1 6-0.

LTA MEM'S FUTURES TOURNAMENT (Leuds) Singles quarter-Brails:) Knowle (Aut) bt R Lavergne [Fi] 6-3 7-6: L Friedl (Cz Rep) bt P Hand (Berks) 6-4 6-4; M Merry (Neth) bt Y Schukar (Rus) 6-2 6-3, A Popp (Ger) bt A Brunold (Swir) 6-2 6-1.

TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of red

cards that French First Division bad boys Bastia have received this season. They average one sending-off every two games.

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Marie de Annie

THE INDEPENDENT Saturday 6 February 1999

Gough injured in England flop

BY STEPHEN BRENKLEY in Sydney

England 210-7 Australia 211-6 Australia win by 4 wickets

BETWEEN THE 23rd and 29th overs in the second innings at Sydney yesterday there was a quite riveting passage of play. It was one of those periods when it was impossible to take your eyes off the action, which was constantly exciting and fluctuating. This ended only when a steward in front of the pavilion intercepted the beach ball, which had made its way in the air around two-thirds of the ground, thereby striking a hollow blow for authority.

The one-day cricket match out in the playing arena was, for most of its duration, considerably less enthralling. This is always a dangerous judgement to much when England's oppoents are Australia, but it was bound to be difficult to be enaptured by a match on which nothing effectively depended except, of course, the small matter of heating Australia. Over 35,000 people in the crowd cannot be wrong and they

CARLTON & UNITED SERIES

REMAINING FIXTURES Tomorrow: Australia v Srl Lanka (Melbourne): 10 Feb: Final Australia v England (Sydney); 12 Feb: Second final Australia v England(Melbourne); 14 Feb: Third final (it needed): Aus-tralia v England (Melbourne).

found the progress of the outsized beach ball much more al-

Both sides are already though to the finals of the Cariton & United series, the first game of which is in Sydney next Wednesday. The final qualifying game between them in this triangular tournament was not exactly meaningless. but nor was it imbued with relevance. At least, England would be well-advised to reflect on it in such a manner, having lost by four wickets with 18

It was their fourth defeat in the past five games. Having sod that he should be hurt won four of the opening five in now after advancing through the competition, this represents symmetry. What it does smile on his face and a spring not represent is good form. in his step. He could have had They were on a roll now they a match off - the selectors are on the slide. There is time to regroup but they were not the team which was bristling with confidence, belief and purpose three weeks ago. This may be because they were indeed not et team.

In the attempt to rest some players and examine the claims to future recognition of others, they again selected a side which is unlikely to contest the



England's Adam Hollioake flicks a delivery from Shane Warne beyond the watching wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist during Anstralia's four-wicket win yesterday

final. Unfortunately, they did not rest Darren Gough, who was forced to leave the proceedings with what was described as a stretched hamstring after bowling five overs. It is not thought to be serious, but if the leader of the attack is forced to miss the opening game of the final it will be a severe blow.

Of course, it was the law of Australia all winter with a might have insisted on it, but Gough has been injured too often before and he wanted to play. The prognosis on the injury was uncertain. The physiotherapist, Dean Conway, is leaving it for 48 hours before declaring a verdict. But he sounded upbeat. Having dealt with Neil Fairbrother's delicate

hamstrings for a month he

should know a bit about how to

repair them.

The two players to whom England were particularly eager to give a match were Mark Alleyne and Vince Wells. They were surprising choices for this squad hut might have proved to be inspired ones. If it has not quite worked out like that, the pair have performed as exactly what they are: solid, experienced professionals who let no team down.

Wells might have had his first international fifty for England yesterday hut was run out hut he battled through and took England to respectability. Both bowled adequately but it more. Both were victims of the then. Neither is likely to play again in this competition, barring injury to others, and they late movement. are probably contesting one

place in the squad of 15 for the though the seventh-wicket World Cup. It is a tough selectorial call.

The pitch was once more unsatisfactory for this sort of cricket. It was slow, low, helped spin a little and did not encourage placement. Those who could strike the ball hard might gather a few runs hut this was not a style of play likely to succeed for long. England started badly

losing two wickets before the Ponting, returning to Sydney eighth over was out. Nick for the first time since his Knight had managed to play hacking up too far. Alleyne himself out of form while mak- ban and a fine, was dismissed might again have been on a ing a half-century a couple of when he looked about to see it cross-Channel ferry struck by nights earlier and was not yet through. Presumably, he was stormy seas for all the assur-recovered. Graeme Hick was not heading for a bar. ance of his footwork early on, probably entitled to another failure, though it will not be long before the carpers carp once was all hut a losing cause by admirable Adam Dale, who once again gave nothing away cheaply and found just enough

The innings never took off,

partnership of 58 in 60 balls between Alleyne and Mark Ealham revived matters. It did not appear that England's score of 211 would be enough if Australia could show pa-

tience. Most of their players went for enough big shots to stay ahead of the required rate and like England, they got themselves out when they should not have done. Ricky scuffle in a pub which led to a

There was a brief moment when Australia went from 180 for 4 to 181 for 6 that England might have seen an opportunity. But Australia's tail is long and Damien Martyn comfortably got them home. The crowd departed quickly in search of

SYDNEY SCOREBOARD

(40 min, 31 balls, 3 fours, 1 sa) (40 min, 32 balls, 4 fours) M G Bevan c Eatham b Croit (5 min, 4 balls) S Lee not out

[Hofloake, 6-143 (Wells), 7-201 (Ealham), 8-205 (Croft), Did not bat: A O Mullally, Bowfing: Kasproveicz 8-0-39-1 (W2) (5-0-19-0, 3-0-20-1); Dale 10-1-28-2 (W1) (7-1-15-2, 3-0-13-0); Juffan 10-0-39-1 (nb4) (5-0-20-1, 4-0-19-0); Lee 5-0-22-0 (one spell); Warne 10-0-48-1 (W1) (5-0-18-0, 5-0-30-1); Wangh 3-0-11-1; Becaus 4-0-15-7 (one spell each). Progress 50: 61 min, 90 balls, 100: 121 min, 180 balls, 150: 167 min, 249 balls, 200: 195 min, 295 balls, Score after 15 overs: 51-2. Observation 1. September 2. Sep

Thomas shatters bowling record

BY MARK HARGREAVES in Harare

Zimbabwe A 160 & 20-1 England A 192

THE GLAMORGAN seamer Darren Thomas set a new England A bowling record in the unofficial "Test" against Zimbabwe here yesterday; claiming 8 for 50 as Zimbabwe posted a modest 160 all out in reply to the tourists' first-innings total of 192.

The eight-wicket haul was also a personal best for Thomas in first-class cricket. At the close Zimbabwe were 20 for 1, Thomas striking again to remove Craig Wishart, leaving the hosts 12 runs in arrears hut with nine wickets intact.

Rainstorms have decimated the total time available on the first three days of this match to less than four hours, and the players have clearly struggled to adjust to the stop-start pattern of the match. But, miraculously, the clouds parted and a full day's play was possible yesterday, the fourth of the five scheduled days, and following some frantic action on the field a result is still just possible.

Zimbabwe resumed from 147 for 7 overnight, with Stuart Carlisle defying England's seam attack on 46 not out, But he added only one more run before becoming Thomas's sixth victim of the innings. Thomas then whipped through the tail as Zimbabwe added only 13 more runs to their total. Most of the English batsmen

also found the conditions diffi-

cult, but the Lancashire allrounder Andrew Flintoff bolstered the side with an unbeaten 80, an innings which which contained two sixes and six fours. Flintoff was lucky to escape, however, after he was dropped twice in one over when on 68. The Lancashire man received able support from Darren Maddy, who contributed 28, and Vikram Solanki, who chipped in with 27, hut after those two fell, to Bryan Strang and Adam Huckle respectively. Flintoff quickly ran out of partners with his hundred in sight.

The leg-spin of Huckle and the pace of Strang, both of whom have full Test experience, formed Zimbabwe's most potent line of attack on a day when 14 wickets fell in total. Huckle's three wickets cost 57 runs, hut Strang was the pick, taking 3 for 23.

The wicket is now taking prodigious spin, but in his vein of form Thomas is likely to continue today where be left off and, it seems likely, claim what would be his 10th wicket of the

Fourth day, England A Mon Toss

Fall: 1-8. To Bat: S V Carlisle, D P Viljoen, D J R Campbell, A M Blignaut, B C Snang, "A R Whittali, A Huckle, E Matambandao

India's spinners stage fightback Bridge too far for Kiwis

INDIA'S SPINNERS, Anil Kum- BY SUNIL KATARIA ble and Harbhajan Singh, took advantage of a turning pitch to turn the match against Pakistan firmly in India's favour on a dramatic second day of the second Test vesterday.

A total of 13 wickets fell throughout the day, with legspinner Kumble taking 4 for 75 and off-spinner Singh weighing in with 3 for 30 as Pakistan collapsed from 114 for 4 to 172 all

That total left the visitors with a first-innings deficit of 80. after they had earlier dismissed India, who had resumed on 247 for 8, for the addition of just five more runs.

India lost Vengipurappu Laxman for eight when they Ijaz Ahmed.

in New Delhi

India 252 & 46-1 Pakistan 172

batted a second time, and were 46 for 1 at the close, for an overall lead of 126.

Kumble and Singh were effectively supported by two wickets from the paceman Venkatesh Prasad, who made the initial breakthrough by having the Pakistan opener Saeed Anwar caught behind for one. Singh then sent back Shabid Afridi with a ball that kept low to bowl him for 32. In the next over, Rahul Dravid took a diving catch off Kumble to dismiss

Pakistan, in trouble at 59 for 3 at lunch, lost Yousuf Youhana immediately after the interval when he lobbed a return catch

to Kumhle after making three. Inzamam-ul-Haq and Salim Malik checked the slump by adding 54 but Kumble broke the stand when he deceived Inzamam, on 26, with a googly. Salim (31) fell to Prasad and Moin Khan went shortly before

tea, lbw to Javagal Srinath. Second day, India man toss
Second day, India man toss
SENDIA – First Immings
(Overnight: 247-8)
TN R Monga run out
A K V Prasad not out. Harbhajan Singh run out Excres (6nb. 7lb, 13b) Total (81.5 overs) 252
Falls 1-88, 2-113, 3-122, 4-191, 5-231, 6-240, 7-243, 8-247, 9-248, 10-252, 8-247, 9-248, 10-252, 8-247, 9-248, 10-252, 8-247, 9-248, 10-252, 8-247, 9-248, 10-4), Younis 13-5-37-0; Saqisin Mushaqa 35.5-9-94-5 (nb-2); Mushaqa Ahmed 26-5-64-2; Afridi 4-1-14-0.

PARISTAN - First Intelligs
Saeed Anwar c Mongla b Prassd 1
Shahid Afrid b Singh 32
Jaz Ahmed c Drawld b Kumble 17
Inzamam-ul-Haq b Kumble 26
Yousul Youhan c and b Kumble 3
Safim Mafik c Azharuddin b Prassd 31
Moin Khan fow b Sfinath 14
Wasim Ahram flow b Singh 15
Mushtaq Ahmed c Laeman b Singh 12
Sacjain Mushraq flow b Kumble 2
Wapar Youris not out 1
Extras (nb-9 b-1 R-8) 18
Boat (64.3 owers) 172
Patit 1-1 2-54 3-54 4-60 5-114 6-130 7139 8-167 9-188.
Bowling: Sinath 12-1-38-1 (Shb), Prassd

INDIA - Second Impings

S Ramesh not out 22
V S Labran b Atram 8
R Dravid net out 6
Extras (2nb, 4fb, 4b) 10
Datal (flor 1) 46
Fatt: 1-15
To bate 5 R Tendulkar, "M Azheruddin, S C Ganguly, 1 N R Monela, A Kumble, J 5rl-nath, 8 K V Prased, Harbhajan Singh, Bowring: Akram 7-2-13-1 (1nb); Younis 4-2-12-0; Sagian Mushaq 5-2-8-0 (1nb); Mushaq Atmed 3-15-0.
Unapires: 5 A Bucknor (Wi) and A V Jataprakash (Ind).

off a thrilling 62-run victory in the first Test of the three-match series against their New Zealand counterparts on a final 51 in the space of 20 overs and day of fluctuating fortunes in New Plymouth yesterday. The opener Michael Papps

looked to be steering the Kiwis to an unlikely win as they reached the tea interval on 260 for 2, chasing a target of 374. However in a dramatic final session Papps was dismissed for 117 by slow left-armer Graeme Bridge who took four made room to cut. The bowler wickets as New Zealand crumhled to 311 all out.

England had let the Kiwis of 4 for 91 and seven wickets in back into the game after a sloppy show in the field, but New last man out, plumb lbw to Zealand lost eight wickets for Richard Logan, a fitting finish

ENGLAND UNDER-19s pulled England U-19 285 & 290 New Zealand U-19 202 & 311 England U-19 win by 62 runs

were bowled out with nine

(35 min, 37 balls, 2 fours, 1 six)

R O B Croft c Gilchrist b Kasprowicz ... 0

overs of the final hour to go. "The first two sessions today were the poorest we've had on tour so far," the England manager, Mike Gatting, said, "I got the feeling that our boys thought they only had to turn up.

Papps was out first ball after tea, playing on to Bridge as he came into his own in the final session, finishing with figures the match. Bruce Martin was

N Fighagan 53; H Shaw 5-49).
NEW ZEALAND UNDER-19 XI - First Ipologs 202 (M Papps 64).
ENGLAND UNDER-19 XI - Second Implings 290 (I R Bell 91, M P Bulbeck 51; B March 5-76).

because of the crucial part he

Final day: England won toss
ENGLAND UNIDER-19 XI - First Immings
285 (R K J Dawson 67, R I Logan 63, I
N Flanagan 53; H Shaw 5-49).

1P McGlashan run out
H Shaw c Carberry b Dawson
M Hendry Ibw b Bridge
B Jansen not out
B Martin Ibw b Logan
Extras (b4 lb5)

The tawdry, the batty and the simply deeply dippy

FOR THIS observer the most disturbing aspect of a turbulent, giddy week has been finding myself in complete agreement with Boris Johnson. the Telegraph's raving Tory Boy who famously complained about being "stitched up" on Have I Got

News For You last year. The blond bombshell stole the stow on Monday's Newsnight (BBC2), as the piranhas were circling round Glenn Hoddle wondering whether to have the England coach

fried or boiled. "Why is his opinion about reincarnation any more offensive than iots of other religious opinions?" Johnson asked with that air he has of a man completely at a loss with the modern world. "All kinds of things in Islam and Hinduism and Buddhism are distressing if taken to extremes.

It is made as anything else, the Hoddle of course, one of the ever-watchful Finnigan and Richard Madeley. As replied, "at two o'clock on January I see no difference between the per-



secuting of Glenn Hoddle for his wacko views about reincarnation and persecuting Salman Rushdie for upsetting a load of Muslims ... We expend a huge amount of Government money to protect Rushdie, and when poor old Glenn says something about reincarnation, the Prime Minister goes on television and sacks him." Boris may be bonkers, but he's dead

right on this one. It is important to realise that as media operate. In another, simulta- stories, plucked out the offending neous incarnation, I am sports news paragraph and slapped it on their editor of this paper (a grand name cover in 36 point. for what used to be known as copytaster). If one of our reporters had filed the Times interview that started all the trouble, would I have read through it, picked my jaw up off the Downing Street agendas and partly floor and scurried round to the news desk squealing, "Hold the front page! Hoddle's gone mad!"?

Call me a load of old rubbish at my job, but it's unlikely, especially given the fact that he was saying nothing he hadn't said before. I'd have probably just laughed it off as batty old Glenda inserting his gifted foot into his less than gifted gob again. And there the offending paragraph may have remained buried in an otherwise unexceptionable piece - unless,

Once the story had appeared,

and the rest of Fleet Street's finest had donned their bovver boots and steamed in, it was partly a tale of one of Hoddle, having dug his own grave, jumping in and starting to fill it in around himself. Tony Blair's tawdry little role in all

this has to do with the Government's determination to bypass the lobby correspondents, who ask awkward questions about politics and policies, in favour of the hugs and hisses favoured by regional press and lowbrow television. Which is why he was mouthing off on This Morning on Monday in the company of Judy

at breakfast time on BBC1 on Wednesday, "Why does the PM appear on a dumbed-down programme like 'Punch and Judy' anyway?"

Once the PM had weighed in

(with the usual slew of dropped aitches and giottal stops he reserves for appearances on ITV), saying that it would be difficult for Hoddle to keep his job, the England coach's position began to look fragile. The truth is, the Government

couldn't keep their bands off the story. On Monday Margaret Hodge, Minister for the Disabled, was the first Cabinet member to call for his sacking, and she faced a scathing Jeremy Paxman on Tuesday night, a few hours after Hoddle had gone.

"I didn't ask for him to be sacked." she averred "So you didn't," Paxman

affair is a story about how the mass tabloids, never afraid of reheating old football writer Brian Glanville put it 31st, say that it was inappropriate for outside an ever-shrinking net of wellhim to stay on?" Get out of that. As she gabbled about agendas and

watersheds, Paxo, in a performance that evoked his famous stuffing of Michael Howard, when he asked him the same question 14 times, the TV terrier tried to get Hodge to admit the fact that Hoddle had been sacked for his beliefs. He failed.

It has to be said, though, that Hoddle wasn't sacked merely for having a batty philosophy, but because one fence. Let's face it, although we proit, as quoted by Glanville: Hoddle is "a victim of the new intolerance

censored platitudes."

Which wasn't what we got from Eileen Drewery's appearance on Wednesday's Channel 5 News, If we had been in any doubt as to the deleterious effect of her mumbo-iumbo on Hoddle's stewardship of the England team, it was banished by her deeply dippy performance.

Hoddle never said that the disabled were being punished. No, we all choose our karma. "We choose to aspect of that philosophy gave of come back how we wish to come back -that may be as a poor man or a rich fess to enjoy freedom of speech in this man," she said. "We come back for country, its parameters are strictly experience - sometimes you come limited, especially for public figures. back, if you want to, as a disabled per-As Polly Toynbee in the Guardian put son because you have an opportunity, against all the odds, to have faith in God." Right then. Are any bookthat puts a gag on everyone in the makers taking bets on Drewery for public eye, allowing them no views the next England coach?

Coin it with Three Farthings

FOR THOSE who enjoy multiple bets there are interesting televised options today. Three Far- However, the sole favour ultithings, who runs in Sandown's most valuable race, deserves a place in a Heinz, while Ottowa, the victor in the National Trial at Uttoxeter 12 months ago, will be a banker in several Canadians to retain the crown.

To come to Paul Nicholls' chaser first. Ottowa has run just once this term, when he put up perhaps the most intelligent display of his career. That came behind Earth Summit in the Becher Chase at Aintree, where the nine-year-old ran well for a long way until he realised it would be a lot safer just to stop. He considered Becher's Brook a fence too far.

Lord Gyllene has no such problems with that obstacle. He cleared it cleanly and gloriously 22 mooths ago when collecting the Monday Grand National. The gelding has had plenty of time to savour that success as injury has limited him to just a single subsequent run, in Haydock's Tommy

Whittle Chase in December. Lord Gyllene jumped well that day until he got down to the rust and, by the end, he finished ahead of only Quixall Crossett, one of the very worst horses in the land. Lord Gyllene must come on for that.

Also at Haydock, General Wolfe won the Peter Marsh Chase last mooth from some good horses and will be close today despite his 8lb penalty. showing his ability has evapo- worry about that.

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

mately falls on Fiddling The Facts (next best 1.45), who has been allowed to recuperate following her second in the Welsh National, for which she is penalised just 1lb.

The Tote Sandown Hurdle is as tricky as you might expect a bookmakers' Saturday sponsorship. The big team that comes rumbling over the horizon here will be leaving tracks from the West country. Martin Pipe has three entries, including Moondigua, the favourite.

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Three Farthings (Sandown 4.10) **NB: Fiddling The Facts** (Uttoxeter 1.45)

The seven-year-old won absurdly easily at Warwick on his seasonal debut, but the ground was heavy. The search for value is heat left with THREE FARTHINGS (DAD 4.10). On one form line he has the beating of Moondigua, while his tendency to win by small margins could mean he is a hard horse for the handicapper to assess correctly.

Kurakka (3.05) has won over course and distance already, which is of great significance at Sandown and its railway fences, while Fine Thyne (3.35) is com-

rated. Finally, Master Beveled (4.40) can win the Agfa Hurdle.

The most fertile territory for Cheltenham clues this weekend will be Leopardstown tomorrow, where Alexander Banquet, Nick Dundee and Knife Edge will be putting the finishing touches to their Festival preparation. The most compelling figure, though, will be the Gold Cup aspirant Florida PearL

Willie Mullins' gelding has to dismiss Escartefigue, whom he heat by a length and a half in the Royal & SunAlliance (Novice) Chase at Cheltenham last season. He also has to dismiss the memory of a dreadful mistake and fall on his seasonal debut at these acres.

Florida Pearl has since schooled over the fence that uninged him without mishap. Mullins said. "Every time he's schooled over the track he's been particularly good at that fence. He's met it on really long strides before and got lengths. He's a very good natural jumper like Dawn Run, who won her Gold Cup after four runs and a fall."

Florida Pearl now goes into the Hennessy Gold Cup on tha back of a splendid piece of work on Thursday. "He's in good form and going well," Mullins added. "He's been getting the headlines in the papers this week and I hope that's the same on Monday." Whatever ing down in the weighs without 'the result, the trainer need not



Lord Gyllene (left), winning the infamous Monday Grand National in 1997, is in action at Uttoxeter today

Pipe runs three but record is wretched

BY CHRIS CORRIGAN

MARTIN PIPE saddles three horses in today's Tote Sandown Hurdie, including the shortpriced favourite, Moondigua, But a look at the trainer's record in this contest would deter many punters.

Pipe ran five when a field of 13 contested this race a year ago. They trailed in 7th, 8th. 11th, 12th - while the other fell. The one in 8th was the 11-4 favourite, Big Strand.

In the 1997 running, Pipe's sole representative finished 6th of 13. A year before that, the stable's two runners were third and 11th in a field of 14. In 1995. Pipe's Allegation finished last.

The stable made no mistake at Lingfieldveslerday, however with a 1-14 shot Majadou. One of Pipe's leading Cheltenham hopes, Majadou com-pleted his hat-trick in the Adventure Novice Chase.

The French import, who is entered in the Arkle. Cathcart and Royal & Sun Alliance Chases at the Festival, made all to win by a distance. Bartholomew Fair was the only other finisher. Majadou's owner. Chris Batterham, said: "I don't know what he will go for at the Festival. Martin will probably make his decision on the Monday before the hig meeting."

WETHERBY

HYPERION

1.20 Birkdale 1.50 Banker Count 2.25 Cumbrian Maestro 2,55 Royal Mountbrowne 3.30 Tonoco 4.00 Last Option 4.35 Head For The Hills

GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places). Left-hend oval circuit. Flun-in of 200yds slightly uphil... Course is NE of town on 81224 near junction of A58 and A1. ADMISSION; Club Et3 (accompanied under-16s free); Tattersalis 29; Course 23 (OAPs \$150) or \$10 per car with up to four adults. Accompanied under-16s tree. CAR PARK: Free. FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

ELEADING TRAINERS; Mrs M Revoley 40-188 (213%), T Easterby 32-139 (23%). Mrs S Smith 18-109 (16.5%), D Nicholson

LEADING JOCKEYS; L Wyor 46-183 (25.1 %), P Niven 33-156 (21.2%), A Dobbin 22-129 (17.1%), FI Guest 19-86 (22.1%). FAVOURITES: 203-480 (42.3%) BLINKERED FIRST TIME: King Pin (120), Justin (225).

1.20 SPOFFORTH HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 7f

-44P23 FOR CATHAL (12) Mrs M Reveloy 8 10 4......

BETTING: 9-4 Birtidale, 11-4 Cool Spring, 7-2 Native Field, For Cathal,

The Ipn Ver

STE

ABI Stré 2.11 Mei spe 8.21 2.11

ODI

Stre Corr 2.3! Ene 3.40 Ster 1.40 Littl

5te₁ 7.10 9.20

STR NEW HOU Stra 4.05 Stel 4.40 spec 6.41 1.50

7pm Stat 1.45 12m

Groc Littl The 6.50 Pare Egys Shal 4.15 1.15

SUT UCI ton: 4,45 Enes 12m 5,30 Prac vate Love 11,3

TUR COR Turni 6.30

4.15

Bad 8.45

ODE

Uxbr 4.30 1.20

WAL ABC

4pm 1.30

FORM VERDICT

KING PIN is well up to winning this off a potentially favourable mark if he responds to first-time blinkers. In-form Birkdate could be vulnerable on the anticipated drier ground, and Native Field may be the one to beat back over a more suitable distance.

1.50 PETER BEAUMONT OWNERS NOVICE CHASE (D) £5,250 added 2m 4f 110yds

2/21P1 NDG DEE (4) (CD) P Beaumont 8 12 1 ______ R Supple 2/1-P2 BANKER COUNT (14) (C) M W Essiedby 7 113 C McCormack (3) D-0742 ROYAL SCHITAR (USA) (26) (D) M Tompleto 7 to 3 . L Wyer SP-QUE WHAT'S THE BUZZ (73) Mrs S Smith 8 11 3. .. R Williamson (5) OP RIVERSIDE LODGE (35) A Woodhouse 5 10 7 D Paricer

- 8 declared -BETTING: 8-11 Niid Dee, 9-4 Benker Count, 5-1 Royal Scimiter, 20-1 Hidden Island, 25-1 Turkish Tower, 50-1 others

On paper a match between NIIO DEE and Banker Count. The difficulty matching Nilid Dee, who jumped boldly and well apart

2.25 RIEVAULX HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) \$8,500 added 2m

FORM VERDICT

BREWMASTER to dictate affairs from the front with no other front runner in opposition. His Bangor was stands up well, and he is less exposed than some of his nivals.

FORM VERDICT

Several of these lowards the foot of the weights have pieces of form which would give them a chance if they could reproduce them, but MUHANDTS has a series of solid efforts here of late and may be able to confirm last week's superiority over Sir Watter, despite being 10to worse off today.

2.45 ARENA ONLINE SERVICES CLASSIFIED CLAIMING STAKES (F) 52,750 3YO 71

FORM VERDICT

RED VENUS and Shabasah have the strongest claims. With a peak-form win last time out to her name and the possibil-ity of improvement now that she has won a race, Red Venus

3.20 MARGERY ALLINGHAM HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,500 added 3YO 1m 2f

FORM VERDICT s step up to 1172 will be ideal for LINCOLN DEAN, who

belied weakness in the betting when upsetting the odds-on Love Diamonds here a fortngitt ago and looks the sort to run up a sequence in minor handicap company

3.50 LINGFIELD PARK INFORMATION LINE HANDICAP (D) 25,000 added 1m

-8 declared -BETTING: 13-8 Hyde Pent, 7-2 Topton, 5-1 Rainbow Rain, 7-1 Zimirt, 8-1 Super Monarch, 18-1 Twin Creets, 16-1 Vacart, 33-1 Weilyille

FORM VERDICT

Conditions look ideal for SUPER MONARCH, who ran well from a poor draw in a compensive 71 handicap last time, and he can make the most of a mark 10b lower than on furt. Reinbown Rein, who has a much better draw than the other front numer Hyde Park, and Topton, who arould get the good pace that suits, look his main rivals.

4.25 DOROTHY L SAYERS HANDICAP

(CLASS E) £3,500 added 7f

Allement weight 7st 10h. The handcap weight Mobie Water 7st 7b. BETTING: 11-4 Add Test, 5-1 Roisin Spiention, 8-1 Marmoon, 13-2 Nor's Deed, 7-1 Delight Of Dawn, 18-1 Al Mehrook, Nobie Water, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Rolain Splandour desaves a change of luck, but ACID TEST is going from strength to strength on this surface and there may be better still to come from him over today's longer trip.

RED VENUS and Sh

2.55 MARSTON MOOR HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £12,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

40340 CUMERIAN CHALLENGE (14) (CD) 7 Essenty 10 11 10 _L Wyer PASP4 KONNEKTA KING (14) (CD) 0 Sherwood 11 12 12 __5 Danack 11U3-5 CELESTIAL CHORF (42) (CD) J L Eyre 9 10 8 _____ \$ Storey -83U03 ROYAL MOUNTERFORME (7) (D) MSS LI ROWARD 11 10 0 ____ 5 326756 MASTER BOSTON (49) (CD) R Woodhouse 1: 10 0 _R Supple PPPSSA MONAUGHTY MAN (23) E Care 15 TO X Johnson

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Lord Mounthrowne Set 12b, Master Boston Bat 12th, Monaughay Man Bc! 4th, BETTING: Evens Cumbriso Challenge, 3-1 Konvekta King, 9-2 Celestia

FORM VERDICT This is a much less competitive handicap than Cumbrian Chal-

lenge has been running in and he could make class tell, but is peak form CELESTIAL CHOIR would be a major threat and she gets the vote in the hope that she'll bource back to her

3.30 ROSSINGTON MAIN NOVICE HURDLE (Grade 2) (CLASS A) £15,000 added 2m

1-22/1 CRAZY HORSE (15) (D) L Lungo 6 11 9 ____ ... A Supple

- 6 declared -BETTING: 7-4 Crazy Horso, 5-2 Go Boldly, 5-1 Tonoco, 11-2 Ruening Man,

FORM VERDICT

A fascinating and highly-informative race in which CRAZY his encounters with Scotmell Lad in the auturn. He meets Running Man are both held in high esteem by their trainers ass, while market confidence behind ex-French Plat-racer Go Boldly would be significant.

4.00 HAROLD CHARLTON MEMORIAL HUNTER CHASE (H) £1,500 3m 1f

1 PUNI EH CATASE (FI) 27,500 SITI 17

1 29:45 HIGHLANDMAN (233) J Halderin 3: 24 _______ lbr C Wison
2 122: LAST OPTON (233) (CD) R Ten 7: 24 _____ lnr F Needbern (3)
3 POOP- SEVER STICK (237) (CD) M W Extenby 12: 24 ___ lbr in Whitson
4 USEP-P WALLS COURT (13) J O'Shen 12: 24 ___ lbr in Whitson (7) 8
5 1:9:76 RH ERANGAN (200) (87) Mrs C Bally 9: 20 ____ lbr 8 Politot (5)
8 4P00- ABBEY LAMP (262) Mas L Russol 10: 11: 0 _____ lbr 5 Swiens
— 6 declared —
BETTING: 4-11 Leat Option, 9-2 Mr Brandgen, 6-4 Silvet Stick, 25-1 HighInvienses, 50-1 others

ndman, 50-1 owers
FORM VERDICT
Last Option will be a popular choice on the strength of his
Stratiford defect of Double Thriller, but that could be a shade
flattering and there may be some value in the Ive dangers MR
ERANIGAN and Silver Stick, with Mr Branigan just preferred.

4.35 WEATHERBYS STARS OF TOMORROW OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CH) £1,750 2m

1 TIME OF FLIGHT (FL97) (7) Mo.M Reveloy 8 ft of MH Hamphon (5)
BERTIES LAMDING Mrs M Reveloy 5 ft 4 ... Mr T Connectord (7)
BLUE BUID J FizzGerold 5 ft 4 ... P Rynn (7)
DAMEUSTERS J FizzGerold 5 ft 4 ... R Gentity
O GENERAL LOUIS (67) F Marphy 5 ft 4 ... R 9 Marphole
HEAD FOR THE HILLS (21) P Benamont 8 ft 4 ... R 9 Marphole
JUSTICE PREVARIED (21) T Easterby 5 ft 4 ... Myer
JUST JOSHIAP Benamont 5 ft 4 ... B Gentlam (3)
2 I MAYDE S 4 AN feet his has the bester 5 ft 4 ... B Gentlam (3) JUST JOSHUA P Beaumont 5 11 4...

2 LINGDRIE LAD (85) Nin N Paveley 5 1) 4...

LORD SCROOP D INChdeot 5 1) 4...

ZAMMAN N Waggott 5 11 4...

ZAMMAN N Waggott 5 11 4...

JUST TOM M Henrand 4 10 8...

MISTER GRAHMAN P R Webber 4 10 8...

SERFLE TONIC T Emberty 4 10 8...

TALL STORY E L. Januar 4 10 8...

TALL STORY E L. Januar 4 10 8...

BETTING: 11-4 Time of Plight, Linguise Lad, 13-2 Head For The Hills, 10-1
Justice Prevalled, 12-1 Star Bud, Lord Scroop, Water Gothern, 14-1 others
FORM VERDICT

superionty over Justice Preveited but this has the makings of a warm contest and he cannot be regarded as a confident choice. The form of Mary Reveley's pair Time Of Flight and Lingdale Laid has worked out well enough for them both to be viewed as major contenders, while Lord Scroop and Mister Graham are newcomers who must be lighted.

LEOPARDSTOWN - SUNDAY

3.40 HENNESSY COGNAC GOLD CUP CHASE BBC2 (Grade 1) £100,000 added 3m £59,500

SOFF ADDINGTON BOY (50) F Marphy (50) Th 20 mpd and white Glamonds, myal take sidenes, mys basince, "Collaboration and white Glamonds, myal take sidenes, mys basince," "Collaboration and white spots, what case, black hoor 18-80 BOSS DOYLE (41) (CD) M Hidney 10 20 ...

emanded great & crange diabola, companial great cast incompanial great cast

TEMS BUCK ROGERS (#1) V Bowers 10 12 0

Spir blue, park cross of former & armer 4,574 blue (AP

1-522 ESCARTERICUE (FR) (43) (D) D Nichelson (AS) 7 10 0

block, while hoops, black stones, white strots

first-FIORIDA PEARL (41) (C) (D) (BF) W P Mulins 7 10 0

red, while hooped cleanes, not each, white (pact

2-2851 PAPILLON (#3) (C) T Walsh 8 12 0

throught process. But him summer on monast stoness; and crosses are to be

R Waish eneral green, Eight blue seams, om green sienes, om green con 1-32 con 22 r

RETTING: 4-8 Florida Pearl, 15-8 Escartatique, 12-1 Boss Doyle, 19-1 Bob Treacy, 18-1 Papitlon, 33-1 Addington Boy, 100-1 Buck Hopers
1996: Dairaos Pade 9 12 0 R Dumoody 8-4 (M Houngan) 8 ran

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Addington Boy: Something to find on form and would prefer faster ground. Pulled up in the Harmesty and falser (beatier, 4 out) in this Traigent. Debut for trainer Bob Treasey: 4 lengths third to Imperial Call at Punchestown and won 17-tumer Grade 2 handloap at Gowran (Srt, soft). Very deappointing troin in between Boas Doyle: In traine that term behard Strath Royal at Wetharby and Trainer Mill at Newtury, before poor C&D offort (destance behard Dozna) Pridet in blathers Boak Rogerst Back from 3-year absence. A distance behard bozna Pridet in blathers Boak Rogerst Back from 3-year absence. A distance behard bozna Pridet in blathers Boak Rogerst Back from 3-year absence. A clostone behard bozna Pridet in blathers Boak Rogerst Back from 3-year absence. A clostone behard bozna back time Bozz Doyle, who was himself beaten a distance, on return to chasing here back that force the first back and Testin Nill at Kempton) and two poor ones. Chances of reversing Cheltenham placings with Florids Pearl feet with a stamma test. Starting to look a hard indefined as the service of the cheltenham placings with Florids Pearl feet with a stamma test. Starting to look a hard indefined the service of the cheltenham for the Cap Papillions. Second in Irah National at Farryhousa (3m5), tottly in April under 12st. 2-length win piver Klaspon Davis over 2m11 here in December was a return to form ength win over Klagon Davis over 2m11 here in December VERDICT: FLORIDA PEARL has done absolutely noting would apart from that metaka when he was asked to stand off the third last over this course on his reappearance, and he should enhance his prospects for the Cheltonham Gold Cup with a win here. Chief form threat Executatique will probably need a greator stamina test to stand much chance of overturning the favourite, and the danger, ϑ there is one, could come from Papillon.

LINGFIELD

1.10 Katie's Cracker 1.40 Nadisha 2.15 Muhandis 2.45 Misprint 3.20 Hormuz 3.50 Hyda Park 4.25 Ivor's Deed GOING: Standard. STALLS: Inside, except fm - outside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low rumbers best up to fm, especially

for 6/.

Equitack surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

Course is SE of town on 82028, Lingfield station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: One enclosure the CAR PARK: Cub b3; remainder free.

ELEADING TRAINERS: G L Moore 87-636 (132%), R Harmon 49-375 (131%), M Johnston 48-272 (121%), G Kalloway 44-31 (141%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: A Clark 78-603 (125%), J Weaver 68-307 (221%), S Sanders 85-553 (115%), B Withworth 55-387 (142%).

EAVOURTIES: 72-2150 (337%), S Withworth 55-387 (142%).

SLINKERED FIRST TIME: Kpola (2.25), Aziltaen (3.20), Ultra Calm (visored, 3.20).

1.10 AGATHA CHRISTIE SELLING H'CAP (CLASS G) (DIV I) 52,500 added 1m 5f 1 3840-3 ARTIC COURLER (16) D Cospose 8 10 _ ... _ ... _ ... _ ... W Ryan 4
2 05-00 SAND CAY (14) (C) Miss G Kolleway 5 8 3 _ ... _ ... _ ... W Ryan 4
3 303-00 SLEEPTITE (FR) (July) (CD) Mrs. S Williams 9 8 12 _A Clark 8
4 0300 RISCATTO (LSA) (71) W Mur 5 8 8 ... _ ... _ Merriar Dayler 1
5 514-25 SWEET SEREMATA (23) SC Williams 4 8 6 ... _ ... P Doe 63 9
8 3-03-02 KATTES CRACKER (9) (8P) M Culm 4 8 2 ... _ ... F Norton 8
7 60-05 COASTGUARDS HERO 69 (CD) B Peace 8 7 11 ... Genebust 10
8 5-03-03 SANTARIENE (9) (8P) P Howing 4 7 10 ... _ ... _ ... Quiten 7
9 000-36 MODEST HOPE (8) (C) Mrs. S Lamyman 12 7 10 ... A Peac 43 2
10 0000 SYLPHOE (J30) H Manner 4 7 10 ... _ ... _ ... P Feasey 8
Minerum weight 7 1000 True handcap weights: Modest Hope 7st 8b, Sylphode 7st 000.

photo 7st 000.

BETTING: 11-4 Artic Counter, 7-2 Kette's Cracker, 11-2 Sweet Serentita, 7-1 Sand Cay, Santarana, 6-7 Suegitte, Modest Hope, 18-7 others
FORM VERDICT

FORM VERDICT

FORM VERDICT

FORM VERDICT

FORM VERDICT

A good opportunity for KATIE'S CRACKER, who has turned in three good efonts here recently and had Countystands Hero and Santanene well behind in a similar event over C&D last week. Severt Seventae and the frustrating Artic Courter look best of the remainder.

14 40 HELEN MCINNES MAIDEN STAKES

L	1.40	(CLASS D) £5,250 added 1m 4f
1	33	BRUFF STREAM (17) M Johnston 59 13 J Parming
Z	000-	ROBELLITA (JES) 8 Smart5 9 13
3	434	SEVEN O SEVEN (17) P Cundel 69 13 S Whitworth
4	40-00	FESTIVAL FLYER (23) G Kelloway 4 9 10 P Fredericks (7)
5	40-	PHAYUHA KIRI LOVE (236) B Johnson 4 8 10 N Der
8	0263-6	ZADA (30) G L Moore 4 9 10 A Clark 10
7	00	IN GOOD ORDER (11) G L Moore 4 95 Candy Morris
ā	603-63	SURTONS FOLLY (26) Ringram 383 G Bardwell
9	000-	POREST GREY (248) K McAutte 383 J Tabo
1	0	MAGIC ARROW (USA) (35) J Noseda 3 83 G Carter
ħ	01-634	ZOLA (11) M Quint 383F Nortos
t		MADISHA (26) W Hagges 3.7 12
_		44 designad

= 12 deciared = BETTING: 7-4 Nacimba, 9-2 Bruff Stream, 11-2 Zola, 6-1 Seven O Seven, 8-1 Zada, Magic Arrow, 14-1 Feathell Flyer, 20-1 others FORM YERDICT Another weak maiden on the AW. NADISHA ran well on her

debut here last momit and any improvement on that will make her tough to beat. This trip will suit the modest Zolai, who has frame claims along with Bruff Stream and Seven O Seven

2.15 AGATHA CHRISTIE SELLING H'CAP (CLASS G) (DIV II) £2,500 added 1 m 5f

Minimum weight: 7st 10to True handlesp weights: Sharuke 7st 9to, The Silk Their 72.
BETTING: 9-4 Mutanolis, 3-1 Sir Walter, Klim, 7-1 Kpolo, 8-1 Ksepsatol, 16-1 Spencer's Revenge, 14-1 The Silk Thief, 20-1 others

FORM VERDICT

latter is still learning and even in receipt of 12th is likely to have he was always travelling well within himself.

S-415 ONCE MORE FOR LUCK (42) (CD) (BF) Mrs M Reveley 8 11 10 3P-143 JUSTIN MAC (15) (CD) (BF) J FitzGensid 8 11 8 Storey B CZSZA CUMBRIAN MAESTRO (23) (D) T Easterby 8 to 8 ... L Wyer B 301/3 THE BREWMASTER (28) (D) (BF) I Williams 7 to 0...C F Swan

BETTING: 5-2 Cumbrien Measure, 11-4 Justin Mec, 3-1 Once More For Luck, 4-1 Eponine, 6-1 The Brewmaster

A tight little affeit, but possibly a good apportunity for THE

WOLVERHAMPTON

7.00 Bapsford 7.25 Caernarion Bay 7.50 Pride Of Brixton 8.15 Royal Cascada 8.45 Scarlet Scaptre 9.15 Infamous 9.45 High Noon

GOING: Standard. STALLS: Inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low to middle best for 7L.

ELEADING I HANGETS: I POMESTREM DOCOS (LT 76), IN CHARLES SEM 47-94 (1855), N. Limoden 47-53 (33%), P. Erema 40-382 (02%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: S. Sanders 43-31 (188%), Dean McKeown 33-300 (27%), J. Weaver 34-200 (7%), D. Holland 31-53 (23%).

EAVOURITES: 473-445 (52.3%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Press Ahead (750), Ring The Raffers (8.45). Monchania (8.45).

7.00 CHINESE NEW YEAR HANDICAP (CLASS F) (Div I) £3,000 added 1m 4f 302-15 BAPSFORD (16) (CD) M Warring 59 11 30840 RYEFBELD STAR (198) D McCair 4 9 8. R Suc 802-04 GEE BEE BOY (5) G McCourt 5 8 8. R Suc

FORM VERDICT
GEE BEE BOY, who not consistently well last term apart from when given a test of starmal, is improving with experience on sand and is potentially very well handlespeed on his ter form. He is preferred to veteran course-specialist Premier Dance, who proved he is no back number on his reappear

7.25 CHINESE NEW YEAR HANDICAP (CLASS F) (Div II) £3,000 added 1m 4f (CLASS F) (Div II) £3,000 added 1m 4f

1 41-46 MBGTA'S STAR (5) (CD) M Britain 8 8 10 ____ G Burdwell 8
2 03626- ROMA (50) C Thorman 4 9 7. ___ Deat McKgown 7
3 0001-3 HOMOUSTA D'OR (19) (CD) G Ham 8 87 ___ S Drouen 8 8
4 530-4: CAERNARFON BAY (9) G L Moore 4 9 5 ___ Candy Monte 2
5 0000-2 BILLY BOX (8) 18 Biding 7 9 4 ____ S Withwich 11 B
5 5408- ROSE JAQUES (178) (C) N Listrodes 4 92.7 G McLaughib 10
7 65300- TYCOON TINA (JAS) (D) W Bristourie 5 8 12.P Bradley (7) 9
8 000-53 AMBRIDEATROUS (J2) (D) E Allian 7 88 ____ L Chamock 1
9 00-53 AMBRIDEATROUS (J2) (D) E Allian 7 88 ____ L Chamock 1
9 000-63 AMBRIDEATROUS (J2) (D) E Allian 7 88 ____ P Readley (7) 3
10 00000 MISS LACROOK (42) R Hollinshead 4 7 12 ___ P M Quinn (7) 3
11 800000 RISSINOWY GETONY (J18) R J Pice 4 7 10 ___ J Cuinn 5
- 11 declared
Abrimust weight: 7x 10b Tus harologo weight: Relations Genowl 7x 7b.
BETTING: 11-4 Caernarion Bay, 7-2 Biby Bay, 5-1 Nicita's Star, Ronquista
D'Oc, 9-1 Rosie Jaques, Ambrideatrous, 18-1 Rome, 14-1 others

FORM VERDICT

FORM VERDICT

Commarton Bay will presumptly be all the rage after a convening win at Lingüide last week and has obvious claims. There is a slight doubt whether he will be as effective at this longer trip, however, and NIKITA'S STAR, who has chopped back from the weights after an unproductive sequence since win-ting over this distance at Southwell just before Christman, is a possible alternative. 7.50 LION DANCE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) 52,750 added 61

FORM VERDICT Lingseld speciate Krystel Mex. may be worth opposing now he has changed stables and rider and, eithough prone to slow starts, SAMIWAR is given the chance to stop up a place on his second in a similar event here late leat year.

8.15 D) £5,000 added 6f FORTUNE COOKIE HANDICAP (CLASS

46430- PIPS SONG (182) (CID) Dr.J Scarpil 4 10 0.

African ### Af FORM VERDICT Unshaken lacks a run on this surface and preference is for DAAWE, who can go well fresh and ren a cracking race here

8.45 RICKSHAW MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £3,500 added 1m 1f 79yds

1 02324 NAKED OAT (23) 8 Smart 4 9 2 PGoode (7) 8
2 350-08 SAFI (22) D McCain 4 9 12 Remain 1
8 08 BAN GARDAJ (5) E Alstin 4 8 7 L Charmock 10
4 B- ORDER IN COURT (50) A Bulley 5 9 7 A Mackay 2
2 (2000 FMKS THE RAFTERS (26) B Baugh 4 9 7 Dels Ghoon 3 B
9 000-25 SHIFTING (14) B McMarton 4 8 7 V Hallidary 8
7 05350- LITTLE HERRY (107) P Euros 8 8 T 8 McLaughlis 8 B
9 000-25 THE LAST WORD (25) R Hollinshed 3 8 D 5 Dels Ghorn 3 P
9 2236-2 LEGEND FALLS (10) I Novetin 3 8 0 L Charmon 3 8 J P Dec (3) 4
10 84-2 SCARLET SCEPTIRE (LSA) (14) R Charlon 3 8 8 J P Dec (3) 4
18 declared 18 Declar

FORM VERDICT SCAPLET SCEPTRE in narrowly preferred to Legend Falls; their form is broadly on a par, but with a capable claimer on board, things may just swing Scarlet Scaptre's way.

9.15 CHOPSTICK SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,000 added 2m 46yds

BETTING: 4-7 Manifeno, 5-2 info 1006, 16-1 Felopy, 20-1 April Spirit, 25-1 FORM VERDICT

MANILENO is preferred to Inferrous in a race in which the two stand out. A modest run less time out, and his likely cramped odds, mean that Manileno majes very limited appeal as a betting proposition but the overall balance of his form a markedly superior to triat of Inferrous. 9.45 ORIENTAL HANDICAP (CLASS E)

- 11 declared - Ministern weight: 7st 10b. True hernings weight: Mezzonanio 7st 7b. BETTING: 9-4 Yearner Oliver, 7-2 High Hoon, 9-2 Areleis, 10-1 Torne Prince, Ki Chi Saga, 13-1 Mezzonanio, 14-1 others

High NOON is stip progressing after 15 races and may well have been found another winning opening. Yeoman Oliver's form is probably more sold but his poor was record here (one from 23 tried) is a little off-putting

RESULTS

CATTERICK Going: Good (Good to Firm in places)

Packitin Parky.

3.00: Sm 1f Tloyde novice chase)

1. TURNPOLE __Mr A Desupery 8-13 tav

2. Sister Gate ____Mir J Crowley 9-4

3. Howyoutdring _____S Taylor 66-1

Also ram: 10-1 lineedswood (4th). 2-1 Mr

Welt (5th), S ram. 3'/r. 3. 1, dist. (Wirener brown geiching by Satoo out of Mountain Chase, trained by Mrs M Revoley at Saturum for Mr & Mrs W J Williams], Role: \$130: \$150. \$E150. \$DF: \$140. \$CSF: \$2.31

2.40: Sim 1f Tloyde handican jurdie)

6.00: (2m 3f handicap chase) 1. COUNT KARMUSKI_A Maguire 3-1 fav 2. Minster Glory _____C McCormack 5-1 3. Joe Shaw G Lee 5-1 Also cerc 7-2 La Phyles (4th), 4-1 Weaver

DF: 2730L CSF: ETAST, NR: Jack Reef. Jackpot: Not wan E107011 camed lorward to Sandown today. Placepot: \$420. Quadpot: \$250. Place 6: \$1270. Place 6: \$927.

trained by Mrs B Smith at Birgley for the Aarons Archer Partnership). Tote: £28,00; £3,90, £2,80, £4,30, £1,50. OF: £1,88,40. CSF: 285.58. Tricast: £1,818.99. NR: Court Joker

Also carc. 7-2 La Piviera (48h), 4-1 Wesver George (68h), 18-1 Brambioberry (58h), Tapasch, 50-1 Meringford. 8 ran. 4, 3/s, 8, hd. 7. (Winner bey gelding by Ardrose out of Triner Gold, trained by F Murphy at Middeham for P E Atkinson), Totes \$4,00; \$2.20, \$1.80, \$1.70, DF: \$4.40, CSF: \$1707. Tricest: \$85.04, NR: Mosa Pacaent.

1 Grian, Giodomigini recreate, mauritains Miraga, Scold.
17 ran. 5, 14, 3° fr., 1° fr., 1° fr. (Winner cheet-nut gelding by Soviet Lad out of How True, mained by F. Murphy at Middleham for John Duddy). Total: P1880; 2880, 2110, 2340. DF: 27780. CSF: 27897. MR: Jack Red. Linckboot: Not won 2107011 corried forward.

LINGFIELD Going: Soft (Heavy in places) 1.40: 1. PARK ROYAL (T.J Murphy) 10-1, 2. 100-30 tar 4. Bow Balls 10-1 18 ran 4 5 (P Butler, Lewes) Tota: \$10.50; £3.20, £3.40.

ast: £606.06. 2.10: 1, LOAD OF LOVE (B Citiord) 7-4: 2. Pegasonic 6-4 fav; 3, Legend of Love 9-4 3 ran. 24, 28. (D Williams, Newbury). Tota: E300 OF: £300 CSF; £417. 2.40: 1. MAJADÓU (A P McCoy) 1-14 fev. 2. Bartholomew Fair 10-1. 3 ran. Dist. (M Pipe, Wellington), Tate: £110, DF: £140.

£110, £210. DF: £103.20. CSF: £140.44 Tric-

3.10: 1. ILLUMINATE (J Cultoty) 8-1; 2. Dewortshire 11-8 tav: 3. Bronhaflow 8-1. 8 ran. 11, 31/s. (D O'Brien, Torrbridge). Tota: £5,20; \$290, \$110 DF: \$440, CSF: \$12.25. 3.40: 1. RACIB (D Galagher) 6-4 fav; 2. Mejors Legacy 13-8; 3. Easthorpe 5-1, 4 rap. DF: £130, CSF: £409

4.10: 1. HEROS FATAL (A P McCoy) 7-2. estileid Cockney 5-1; 3, Edan Heights 3-1 9 ran. 15-8 fav Eko Deauville (4th). 1" 10 (M Pipe, Wellington), Total: £320; £110. £270, £110 DF. £1190 CSF-£2112. 4.40: 1. EQUITY'S DARLING (J CARRY 25-1; Fountain Bid 5-2, 3. Musical Sling 7-4 fav. 5 nan. 5, 3. (D O'Bnen, Tonbridge) Tote: £3100; £320; £250 DF. £2050; CSF: £7903. Placepot: £38.20 Quadpot: £3.70. Place 6: £5188. Place 5: £2034.

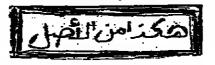
SOUTHWELL Going, Standard

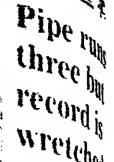
1.20: 1. BRANDON MAGIC (P Clarke) 12-1; 2. Eastleigh 50-1; 3. Killerney dazz -5-4 law 9 ran. 1%, 1%, (D Nicholis) Robe: 0910; 0190, 0370, 010, DF: 014890, CSF. £413.73 1.50: 1. ZAMA (R Price) 2-1 kg, 2. Arthurs

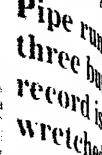
Kingdom 9-2; 3. Brenda Dec 11-4 14 ran. 2. 11/h (J Penrce) Toto: £310, £100, £100 \$1.20. DF: \$1600. CSF, \$897 2.20: 1. MOONRAKING (J Suvage) 7-1, 2. Rambo Waltzer 4-5 lav; 3. Awesome Venture 12-1 9 ram. 2, rst. (T Etherlengton), Total: 2900; 2200, £110 £220 DF: £650 CSF

2.50; 1. RAYWARE BOY | | Quinn) 11-4 fav: 2. James Dee 1)-1; 2. Bamboo Garden o 1 Brain, "4 4 (D Shaw) Tota; £350, £160, £10, 1290 DF 12830 CSF: 13072 Incast 15062 NR Brithy

3.20: 1. TOM YUN (T Watams) 6-1; 2, Euro Venture 9-1; 3. Ocker 6-1; 4. Takhtid 7-1 18 rain, 4-1 tay Pleading Nk, nk (Miss J. Craze) Total 2710, \$180, \$490, \$220 \$130 DF: 28380 CSF. 25376 Incast: £33411 3.50: 1. PICKENS (Kim Tinkler) 5-4 kgs. 2. Joseph's Wins 4-1, 3, Broctume Line 8-1 18 ram. Nr. 3. (Don Ennou Inc. 13). Total: \$260. 28.2 . 380 OST) - TO OSE2 OF 52 OF 12 4.20: 1. OVER TO YOU (O Pears) B 1, 2. Fatebalkhair S 1; 3, No Shoes No News 2-1 jt fav 8 ram. 2-1 jt fav Pakins (589) 19. 21 (T Barron), Total 17160, 1790, 1760, 1780 DF: 12920 CSF 146M Tocast 19337 Placepoli 212:00 Quadpoli 25:70 Place 8: £1304, Place 5: £6.70









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PUNTERS' GUIDE

The former top jump jockey Steve Smith Eccles analyses today's Sandown Hurdle

Kerawi: Has not sparkled at all Teaatral: Won well last time on Rainbow Frontier: The Pipe second string has each-way credentials after finishing third to Lady Rebecca at Cheitenham,

Alpine Panther: Winner of three of his four races this season and ran well in defeat behind Lady Rebecca at Cheltenham, Could make the frame. Kings Measure: Stable is in and

out of form but this fellow could run a big race if he is on song. Moondigna: Woo in a hack canter at Warwick and well backed all week. His weight looks a winning one. Three Farthings: Won on sea-sonal debut at Wincanton and can

improve. Sure to be thereabouts at the death. World Express: Very disappointing last time and needs to improve dramatically

UTTOXETER 12.45: EXECUTIVE KING has already won four times this sea-

soo and should have the class and experience to give weight to some promising young rivals. Among these is Smarty, who looked B young chaser to follow with victories at Warwick and Leicester

1.15: Pealings has had three hard races in succession but all were against decent opposition and this game grey holds his form well. Saleel seemed to find 3mif too far last time and is sure to play a bigger hand today. But CHURCHTOWN GLEN can regain the winning thread on this froot-runners' track. Steve Brookshaw believes this six-year-old still has improvemeot in him.

1.45: Welsh Grand National winoer Kendal Cavalier renews rivalry with the runner-up, Fiddling The Facts, who will surely gain her revenge if she jumps soundly. They may both play second fiddle to impressive Peter Marsh winner GENER-AL WOLFE, who can defy an 8lb rise in the weights following that victory.

SANDOWN 3.05: Kurakka has made a highly impressive start to his chasing career, but the value lies with RIVER DAWN, who will be suited by the move down in trip after his slog through the mud behind Collier Bay at Haydock. The front-running New Zealander NO RETREAT should last longer than at Newcastle three return from stallion duties.

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

heavy ground at Kempton but

may struggle with a 6lb penalty.

Out Ranking: Put in his place re-

cently despite winning five early-

Melody Maid: Came good over

three miles at Kemptoo last

time, so this stiff two miles six fur-

longs will suit her. Needs to run

Just Nip: Won last time out but

Globe Runner: Consistent sort

Montroe: Not likely to trouble the

CONCLUSION: Martin Pipe is

B past master in big handicaps

and the highly progressive MOONDIGUA looks home and

hosed. Jon Old's Three Far-

things is coming to the boil at the

right time and can give my se-

lection most to do.

the race of her life to win.

looks to be outclassed.

but simply outclassed.

weeks ago when he returned home with 'a dirty nose'.

3-35: KING LUCIFER was untroubled to surge 8 lengths clear of Executive King on the run-in at Kempton last month and is expected to reverse placings from his meeting with Torduff Express and Callisoe Bay at Ascot in December

4.10: One of the most competitive handicaps so far this season can fall to KINGS MEASURE. whose win over 2m last time was particularly eye-catching given that today's trip should suit him so much better. There are plenty of obvious dangers, notably the easy Warwick scorer Moondigua, and B less obvious one in bottom-weight Montroe, who scored twice at this track last season,

4.40: There have to be doubts about whether the highlyregarded Deep Water will be st his best today. Last year's winner Master Beveled presents few worries on that score, but his best may not be good enough to cope with MID-NIGHT LEGEND, who fared as well as could have been expected against far stronger opposition on his first two starts this season, his first since B

SANDOWN

HYPERION

3.35 King Lucifer -25 Kasid .55 Edredon Bley 4.10 Kings Measure 2.30 Door To Door 4.40 Midnight Legend 3.05 River Dawn

GOING: Chase course - Good: Hurdles course - Good to Soft (Good in places). Right-hand course; seven testing fences along back straight; run-in of 300yds. ■ Course is on A307, 4m S of Kingston. Esher station (service tram London, Waserloo) adjoins course. ADMESSION: Club £17, Junior Club (17 - 21yrs) £14; Grandstand & Paddock £12; Park enclosure £5. CAR PARK: Free. FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

■ LEADING TRAINERS: D Nicholeon 20-95 (211%), J Old 17-50 (34%), N Hender son 14-96 (145%), P Hobbs 15-51 (25.5%), J Gifford 13-120 (10.8%), III LEADING JOCKEYS: R Durmoody 31-24 (25%), A P McCoy 19-07 (196%), A Minguire 17-87 (195%), J Osborne 15-80 (198%), M A Fitzgerald 14-112 (125%). FAVOURITES: 117-341 (34.3%).

LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Globe Runner (4.0) travels 297 miles. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Tommy Carson (Visored, 125), Broganier (230).

1.25 RIPLEY HURDLE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 4YO 2m 110yds Penalty Value £3,388

FOO ZAPATEADO (26) (14 Archer & Mas J Broadhurst) N Teriston-Device 11 (1 C Llawe

BETTING: 2-1 Mothers Help, 3-1 Tommy Carson, 4-1 River Best, 6-1 Kaeld, Hobert Junction, 8-1 Zapatando, Magai Monsod, 66-1 Brooksie. 1998: City Hell 4 11 6 N Williamson 7-2 (Mrs V Wind) 10 ten

FORM VERDICT An ordinary race in which Mothers Help, seemingly well exposed since her Windsor debut win, sets the standard. She was rated significantly inferior to RIVER BEAT on the Flat, and 0 the latter takes to this game, he will be the one to beat.

1.55 ELMBRIDGE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £12,000 added 2m Penalty Value £8,005

1F-412 EDREDÍON BLEU (FR) (63) (CD) (BF) (Jim Lawle) Miss H Knight 7 12 0. . . . A P McCoy 32-353 MANDYS MANTINO (63) (O) Clote Plackets J Gifford 9 11 8 ... USP-82 ANABRANCH (7) (D) (Mrs M Barker) J Jefferson 8 102 - 4 declared -

BETTING: 7-4 Mandys Maritho, 9-4 Edradon Bleu, 3-1 Hurricans Lamp, 7-2 Anabranch 1998: Big Mett 10 12 0 M A Filogerald 8-2 (N Henderson) 4 ran

FORM VERDICT

A fascinating contest but one in which it is hard to be document about the outcome with all four holding live chances. The top two in the weights hold the strongest claims, with MANDYS MANTINO entitled to reverse December form over course and distance with Edradon Elleu on today's terms, though the fact that the latter has not rily stopped improving yet does complicate matters.

2.30 FEBRUARY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 6f Penalty Value £3,664

02/211 PHAR LESS HASSLE (38) (The Snipe Brighton) T McGovern 7 12 1 C Morrey (7) 5-313 RUSSELL ROAD (55) (Mrs L. Field) O Michelson 7 11 5 .. 430-00 BROGANIER (29) (Robert Hitchins) Mrs J Pliman 7 ft D. 4/ OUR NENO (NZ) (721) (M Denton) A Hobbs 7 11 0_ 50 YEOMAN OF THE GUARD (42) (Mrs Heather Alwan) R Rows 6 11 0...... - 13 declared -

BETTING: 9-4 Magic Circle, 4-1 Door To Door, 9-1 Plur Less Hassie, Russell Road, 7-1 Tower Street, 9-1 Dual Or Bust, Holborn Hal, 16-1 others 1998; Good Lord Murphys 6 11 5 R Dunwoody 7-2 (P Hobbe) 7 ran FORM VERDICT

The four Royal & SunAllance Hurdle nominees - Russell Road, Door To Door, Magic Circle and TOWER STREET - are expected to dominate an open race. The first two are proven stayers, and a truly-run race seems likely with one of them (Door To Door) and Phar Leve Hassele suited by forcing tactics. The step up in distance is expected to suit Tower Street, who has the edge over Megic Circle if a formine through 3.05 SCILLY ISLES NOVICE CHASE (Grade 1) (CLASS A) £35,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Value black, emeratel green triple demond 01F-SP BETTER OFFER (7) (0) (Sir Enc Parker) Mrs A Penett 7 til 8...... light blue, white cross bebs, red cap 19100U GUTTERBOGE (14) (D) (BCD Steels Ltd) ? Evers 6 11 6 ... light blue end white (quartered), dash blue steemes and cap dark green and jediow stripes, dark green sleev white, red dicc, hooped cap -P324P NATIVE PLAYER (23) (BP) (Nicholas Cooper) R Rose 7 TI 6..... L Aspell marcon, vedow armiets, customered can OTHIS NO RETREAT (NZ) (21) (D) (BF) (M YY & A N Harre) S Brookshaw & T. 6. ... W Marraton royal blue, white star, when stars on royal blue sleaves and cap 3-6PP3 WELSH HARVEST (14) (Berkshire Components Ltd) D Willems 7 ft 6 white, royal blue cross belts, white sleeves, royal blue spots, emessici green and royal blue hooped cap

- 10 declared -BETTENG: 13-8 Kurakku, 11-4 No Retreet, 4-1 Hob Express, 7-1 King Of Sparta, 10-1 River Dawn, 14-1 Bank Avenue, 10-1 Better Otter, 25-1 Native Player, 40-1 others 1998: Jack Doyle 7 11 6 C Lievellyn 5-2 (N Twiston-Caves) 6 ran

FORM GUIDE

Blank Avenue: Won Charisma Gold Cup at Kempton and fair third to King Luciter over same 3m C&D three months later. The drop to 2m4f is unlikely to suit Better Offer: Useful 2m4l form in novice hurdles last term. Never-dangerous last of 5 in Gradis 2 at Sandown (2m, good) on chasing debut. Saddle slipped littest Gutteridge: Made bright start to his chasing career in the autumn, third win coming Over balow-form His Song at Punchestown (2m-t), heavy). Disappointing since Hoti Express: Has done well over lances, winning at Hareford (2m3), good) and Kempton (2m5), heavy), in latter cetting the better of sole rival Fantaron late on King Of Sperta: 7 chase was at around this trip, including by 1/2 length from Scotta Nostra at Cheftenham (good to soft) in December, Ready excuses lest time Kuraidos: Strapping 6yo, unbesten in three chases. Best Strong Paladin 13 & at Ascot (2m3), good to soft) and Act in Time 13 lengths over the C&D (soft) Native Player: Very promising leat term but disapporating in nowce chases, 5% lengths fourth to Nipper Reed at Newbury (2m11, soft) but poor effort next time No Retreat: Sound-lumong front-runner, Clear-cut winner first two starts in Britain re 91/s lengths third of 5 to Bobby Grant in Grade 2 at Newca River Dewn: Beaten "/- length by Village King at Chettenham (2m45, good to seft), 4 lengths by Collier Bay at Huntingdon (3m, helevy) 3 months later. Promising

Weigh Harvest: Poor form in points. None in four starts this season under rules VERDICT: A fine renewal of this Grade 1 novice chase. KURAKKA and Hoh Expreas have the best form credentials, with the formers huge superiority (admitted ly with leading rivals failing after jumping errors) on his fast two starts earning him the selection. However, No Retreet left almost as good an impression on his first

two starts and may well find the faster ground today in his favour King Of Sperta is another whose form is not far behind the principals, while Better Offer and River 3.35 AGFA DIAMOND LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (Grade 2) (A) 230 000 3m 110m/s 218.138

(Grade 2) (A) £30,000 3m 110yds £18,138 1-1210 TOROUFF EXPRESS (40) (CD) (Two Plus Two) P Nichole 8 11 9 A P McCoy

BETTING: 3-1 Tordulf Express, 10-3 King Lucifer, Fine Thyne, 5-1 Clever Rem 11-2 Callison Bay, 12-1 Nahthen Lad

white, black spots, black alseves, white spots

1998; Court Melody 10 10 5 C Maude 10-1 (P Nicholis) 6 ran

FORM GUIDE Nanthen Lad: Several leck-lustre performances lest term but was also fourth in the Scottish National, Reasonable return in Grade 2 at Haydock two weeks ago Callisoe Bay: Good third to Euclipe here four weeks ago, but the way in which he rallied from 2 out successed that 1/-m shorter trip today will be against him.

ar: Promise efter long lay-off first two starts. Smooth 8-length winner from Executive King in four-runner race at Kempton (3rn, heavy). 6th higher here Fine Thyre: Second in the Whitbread here (3rn5t, good to soft) in April, 1to lower today after pulled up in the Hernessy and promising fourth at Cheltenham (2m5f) Tordurif Express: 8th higher than for win at Ascot (3m, good to soft) by 16 lengths from Callisce Bay and King Lucifer, both of whom have run better since. Disappointing in the Welsh National P days later, Would be suited by a stamina test Clever Remerk: Clear-cut winner upped to 3m m handicage last 3 starts, from Royal Barge at Exeter (good) on latest, 8th higher, Looks strong on starring

VERDICT: Whithread runner-up FINE THYNE has been dropped to an attractive mark and the ground and trip today should suit him ideally. This may prove an inadequate staming test for Torcizif Express, Califece Bay and Clever Remark, and King Luciter looks the chief danger.

4.10 SANDOWN HANDICAP HURDLE (Grade 3) C4 20-344 KERAWI (40) (Mat) Aucher & Mass J Broadfurst) N Treston-Dates 8 tt 10 C Llewellyn light green and dark blue check, light green slowers and cap 1914-1 MOONERGUA (28) (D) (Golden Step Racing II) M Pipe 7 104. 1PH-1 MOONERGUA (28) (D) (Golden Step Rating II) M Pipe 7: 10.4. A P McCoy orange, large royal blue spots, royal blue species, conjue spots, royal blue cap, orange spots.

THREE FARTHINGS (42) (D) (Mrs. Joan Prissen J Old 9: 10.3. Y J Marphy spat) blue, chocobian and red hoops, which cap

SIZNO WORLD EXPRESS (14) (BF) (The Diagsoc Partnershy) S R Marran 9: 10.2. O Salter POST TEANTRAL (14) (Bernard Gover Trading Ltd) C Egenton 5 102 (Sev.) D Gallagher S
1000 TEANTRAL (14) (Bernard Gover Trading Ltd) C Egenton 5 102 (Sev.) D Gallagher S
1000 OUT RANKING (FR) (SF) (ISF) (Indipt Hawks Partnershop) M Pipe 7 10 1 M Foster
1000 B Sellow stripes, yellow sheres, brown armiess and distrand on yellow cap
1P-331 MELODY MAID (42) (D) (R Parish S Griffiths) N Henderson 7 10 0 . J R Karannagh royal blue, light blue amules, light blue cap 4-1341 JUST NIP (37) (D) (B Seal D & M Evans) Mrs L Richards 0 10 0 J Oeborn

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicep weights: Globe Furner 9st 13th, Montroe 9st 9th BETTING: 2-1 Moondigus, 9-2 Kings Measure, 0-1 Teastret, Three Farthings, 9-1 Alpine Paother. Melody Maid, 10-1 Globe Rusmer, 25-1 others. 1998 Buckhouse Boy 8 11 3 N Wilkamson 16-1 (D Nicholson) 14 ran

1989 Buckhouse Boy 8 n 3 N Williamson 6-1 (D Nicholson) 14 ran FORM GUIDE

Kerswit Fifth in the Champion Hurds, one of several eucellant efforts in 1997 96. Below form this season, over 3m on reappearance and 2m (Grade 1) latest stant. Relinbow Frontier: Leading 97/98 juvenile form: Should stay beyond 2m, but bealler 31 lengths behind Lady Robecca or Cheftenham in December on first arrampt. Alpine Pauthor: Progressivo, winning four on the trot (from 2m4 to 3m, good to soft) before Lady Rebecca put him in his place at Cheftenham. Should run well. (Inga Measure: Rallied when fourth over 2m5/1 at Kempton (2m5/1 soft). Tength will (Bib Negare: Rallied when fourth over 2m5/1 at Kempton (2m5/1 soft). Tength will (Bib Negare: Rallied when fourth over 2m5/1 at Kempton (2m5/1 soft). Tength will (Bib Negare for 90 over 2m at Weitnerby showed his is limity on the upgrade Mondilgust Trained by Aiden O'Brien last term. Well backet and much improved when facile winner of 7-more mandicap at Weinvick (2m4/1 heavy) on first run for Marin Pipe. 12th higher and on faster ground, but still very much the one to be at Three Farthingss Vacity improved and has won three of last four starts latest by "length from Pape Kharisma at Weinvanton (2m5/1 heavy), Looks a stayer. World Express: Easy winner at Kempton (2m5/1 soft) in December Holds lungs Measure on that form but, in marked contrast to that roat, ran badly rest him.
Teastrat: Gooss well in the mud, winner go than or attyre over 2m7.
Out Rankling: Scored early-season five-timer in uncompositive affara, but then good that in equalities are here (2m, good). Best form from numary at about 2m.
Metody Maldt. Third of 8 after forcing nide over C&D (good) in December 3-length winner at Kempton (2m, heavy), and is capable of more success of the force winner.

Mislady Malect Third of 8 after forcing nide over C&D (good) in December 3-length witner at Kempton (2m, heavy), and is capable of more success oil har new mark. Just Nip: Wan at Plumpton (2mt good to firm) and Fontivel (2m6), heavy, this form. Stiff task with penelty, and held by Melody Maid on December C&D (2mm Globe Runner; Favourite, won 5-runner race at Haydock (2m4), soft) last time by 9 lengths. All previous form suggests he will struggle to win oil his new mark. Montroe: Twice 2m4/ winner here before taking handicap at Cheltenham (2m5) softi by 10 lengths. 5tb higher mark is hareh only on the term's modest efforts.

VERDICT: This looks a highly competitive handicap, one indicator being seven lest-time-out winners, five of those being impressive last-time-out winners. Most impressive in the lot was Moondigue, who could easily still be thrown in at those weights, but today's far more competitive race is on faster ground and the addis look, short on value. The progressive Three-Ferthings may need further but Alpine Parither, Kings Measure, Teastraf and Melody Maild are all greatly respected. One that crucia go close at a much longer price, however, is MONTROE, who has a good record at Standard and whose positions for but of the horidon deep not look not altitude. Sandrawn and whose position 5to out of the handleap does not look nearly so harsh

4.40 AGFA HURDLE (CLASS 8) £12,000 added 2m 110yds Penaity Value £8,208 C4 (440-1 JUYUSH (USA) (78) (CD) (WE Sturt) J Old 7 11 10 ... cont blue and whee check, dark blue elevers, when cap, dark blue star

2-2231 MASTER BEVIZED (14) (CD) Mrs E J Williams I P Earns 9 11 0 . A P NacCoy
dark blue, pink star, dark blue shevers, pink stars, pink cap, dark blue star

1121 DEEP WATER (USA) (310) (D) (The County Set) M Hammond 5 11 5 B Handleg Disck, pink epitulets, haked eletives, singed cap m/s3 MIDNIGHT LEGEND (56) (D) (Mrs H J Clarke) D Nichulson 6 to 8 R Johnson block and white simples, emerald green and white simpled steel - 5 declared -BETTING: 13-8 Master Beveled, 9-4 Deep Water, 4-1 Juyusis, Midnight Legend, 14-1 Wakasi

1996: Master Beveled 6 10 9 A P McCoy 12-1 (P Evens) 6 ran FORM GUIDE Juyusit: Very deappointing lest term. 10-1, came from behind to win Grade 2 at Ascot (2m4t, good to soft) on return by 6 lengths from Turnpole and Castle Sweep Master Bevelect: 12-1 winner of this in 1998, but a repeat win would be no surprese after his defeat of Wahiba Sands by length in Grade 2 at Haydock. (2m, soft) Deap Water; Won Grade 2 at Anthese (2m, soft) in April by 11 lengths from Reinbow Frontier. Messed January 22 return when he was running a temperature Wateat: Much improved, wrining three times in the authorit, but that form shill leaves him with stiff task in this company, 33-1, lest of 5 in Grade 1 at Kempton Midnight Legend: Back after season at stact. 13 lengths third to Dato Star at Newcaste and 9½ lengths third to Relikel at Chethenham, both races Grade 2

VERDICT: Northern challenger Deep Water is being almed at the Chempion Hurde but his stable has been backy out of form and he is best watched today. Mid-night Legend has a solid form chance, but proven effectiveness at this back and current well-being, so vividity demonstrated at Haydock two weeks ago, sway the ar-pument in layour of MASTER BEVIELED.

10-YEAR-TAL										4
	1989	90	91	92	33	94	95	36	97	96
Fate of the favourkee:	3-5	A	4	6	1	7	1	P	2	8
Winner's place in betth	ng:D	A	D	0	1	D	1	3	2	D
Starting-prices:	20-1	Α	8-1	33-1	7-2	B-1	3-1	6-1	7.2	16-1
Winners' weights:	10:12	A,	100	100	102	827	100	111	1012	11.3
Winners' ages:	8	A	5	5	8	8	7	8	6	В

Percentage of winners placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in last race: 56% Shortest-priced winner: Miracle Men (1995) 3-1 *A = abandoned Longest-priced winner: Black Sapphire (1992) 33-1 Top trainer: J FitrGerald (3) - Special Vintage (1989), Trainglot (1993 & 1996)

FIRST SHOW

Top jockey: M Dwyer (2) - Special Vintage (1989), Trainglot (1993)

Horae	H	L	6_	- 1
Kuraldan	13.8	64	13-8	7-4
No Retreat	11-4	3-1	5-2	3-1
Hoh Express	41	9-2	41	41
King Of Sports	6-1	7-1	8-1	7.1
Filter David	10-1	10-1	10-1	9-1
Bank Appense	16-1	12-1	14-1	W-1
Better Offer	141	16-1	164	14-1
Natury Player	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
Gutteridge	40-1	33-1	40-1	33-1
Walsh Harvest	501	200-1	50-1	150-1

1 4- 1 4- 1 13-	4 9 2 13
1 134	2 13
1 7-	
	1 7
1 13-	2 7
1 1B-	1 14
2 7-	1 7
1 14-	1 14

SANDDWN 3.35									
Horse	C	н	L	S					
Torqui Express	31	31	5.	17-4	10-3				
King Lucillar	71-2	80	31	103	7-2				
Fire Throse	10-3	203	7-2	3.1	5-2				
Claver Research	 ;	93	51	92	+1				
College Suy	8-1	112	11.7	51	5-1				
Makikan Lad	12-1	12-1	12:1	10-1	10-1				
580140	167	ne oca	s place	s 1 ?					

Horse	C	н	L	5	
Mocadesia	74	38	21	21	2
Chris Massac	41		9.2	92	9
	51	8-1	<u>-</u> 1	5.7	
Altrino Dorthor	101	91	*1	16-1	9
Makety Maket	FD-1	9.1	61	4	
These Facilities		31	9.1	51	10-
Cithe Revent	101	51	101	5-1	11
Motions	25-1	25-1	201	251	T
World Extrans		25-1	25-1	301	25
Just His	3.1	25-1		351	30
Address Front		\$3-1	18 7	25-1	6
Kernel	33 1	13-1	33-1	25.1	33
Out Ranking	 			75.1	3

. '			
	*THE IND		
	RACING	SERV	ICES
	U891	261	T RESULTS
	SANDOWN	9.7	981
	UNTOXETER UNGSELLD	9-1	983 984
	WOULDHAMPION (E)	9.75	985

ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 970

Horas	н		
Sweety	4-1	3-1	4:1
Tom's Files	4-1	4-1	4-1
Armin Buckers	41	44	9-2
Knight Templer	6-1	13-2	13-2
Executive King	7-1	7-1	7-1
Scotton Great	7-1	13-2	7-1
Archeot Scool	15-1	1B-1	14-1
Padaca	15-2	7-1	7-1
Shore Perty	16-1	14-1	94-1
Each-eag & S	th the octis.	phose 1, 2	3

Home	C	H	L	8	1
Kales Church	7-2	92	9-2	9-2	94
Postings	11-2	6-1	8-1	11-2	8-
Ebullant Equips	me 7-1	13-2	61	7-1	6-
Lord York	7-1	6-1	B -1	7-1	13
Salesi	11-2	6-1	7-1	5-1	134
Charchiown G	# 8-1	15-2	7-1	7-1	6-
Golant Moss	8-1	8-1	8-1	7-1	8-
Handy Lass	12-1	10-1	10-1	11-1	12-
Whiteh STR	12:1	11-1	14-1	12-1	12-
Freddin Muck	14-1	16-1	11-1	16-1	14-
Sup Surfer	20-1	18-1	18-1	1B-1	15
Abge Horn			ابازشه		

UTTDXETER 1.45								
Horse	C	H	L	6				
Fidding The Fac	394	5-2	52	5-2	11-4			
General Wolle	2-1	52	114	94	11-4			
Forest Ivory	B 1	6-1	11-2	7-1	54			
Kendal Caralla	13-2	61	51	7-1	<u>51</u>			
Овома	9-1	7-1	8 1	8-1	B-1			
Film Of Praise	71-1	21	12-1	11-1	14-1			
Lord Gyllane	14-1	10-1	10-1	8-1	10-1			
Zaggy Lane	20-1	B 1	20-1	20-1	16-1			
Madabill	50-1	401	33-1	40-1	33-1			
Ach we		fe od	s, plea	eg 1, 2	_			

LEOPA	RD:	STO	WQF	3. 	4D
\	- C	H	L	S	_1
Harae Plends Pearl	8-11	46	8-11	4-6	46
	58	58	74	74	2-1
Estatistica	14-1	141	14-1	21	12-1
Bots Dayle	21	10-1	101	14-1	14-1
Paradion	21	14-1	15-1	16-1	16-1
	35-1	40-1	40-1	25-1	40-1
	133-1	100-1	100-1		150-1
Buck Hoges Eachwa C Cook H Willow		the OO	15. pinci 16. SS	s 1, 2 sning T	Tab
C COOL H WHEN					

UTTOXETER HYPERION

12,45 Executive King 2.50 Connor MacLeod 1.15 Churchtown Glen (nb) 3.25 Hurst Flyer
1.45 General Wolfe 3.55 Brilliant Sta 3.55 Brilliant Star 2.20 SCRAHAN CROSS (nap)

GOING: Soft (Good to Soft in pieces).

Left-hand course, Fun-in of 170yds.

Left-hand course, Fun-in of 170yds.

Course is SE of town near BS072 Uninceter station (Derby-Crewe ine) adjoins course. ADMSS-SION: Cato E15 (CAPS E27; Tatersale E10 (CAPS E7); Centre of course 53 CAR PARIC Free.

FFVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 34-721 (281%), D Nicholson 23-102 (225%), K Bailey 20-107 (18.7%), S Brookshaw 19-93 (204%). O Sherwood 18-80 (30%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 33-720 (275%), N Williamson 23-121 (19%), R Duttmood V2-122 (185%), R Johnson 21-150 (14%), A Maguire 16-73 (219%).

FAYOURITES: 258-893 (37.4%).

BLINKERED FRIST TIME: Weish Silk (US), Stewarts Pride (250).

_		
F	12 45	PERTEMPS RECRUITMENT PARTNERSHIP BBC1
L	2.4	NOVICE H'CAP CHASE (C) £20,000 3m 2f
1		ARDENT SCOUT (23) (R Melian Ma A Siene) Mrs B Smith 7 11 10 Mr J Crowley (5) while, black course, maure aboves, moure and white hooped cap
2		KNIGHT TEMPLAR (80) (D) (Richert Ogden) P Nichols 8 11 8
3		PADARA (15) (D) (Bernard Hatheway) D Nicholson 7 11 8
4		EXECUTIVE KING (24) (G A Hubberd) G Hubberd 8 11 9
5		SCOTTON GREEN (23) (D) (Scotton Developments Ltd) T Easterby 8 to 6
8		SHORE PÄRTY (42) (EP) (Mrs J Mould) N Trisson-Davies 7 11 4
7	white min	TONES RIVER (16) (D) (Jerma Partnership) Mrs & Reveloy 7 10 11 Nr A Dempsey (5) con cross bells, while and marcon stoped slowes, excented green and red hooped cap
8	-45711	SALARTY (11) (D) (Mrs T Brown) Mrs J Pilman 8 100 B Feature B lark blue, pirk spain, pink spain spai
9	1/1	ANDRE BUCKERS (29) (A M Grazabrook) K Bailey 8 10 0

dark blue, white such, striped sleeves, red cap 9 declared - 9 dec Peciara, Scotton Green, 14-7 others 1998: Kendal Carolier 8 10 7 D Salter (5) 8-1 (8 Milman) 12 ron

Pedara, Scotten Green, 14-1 others

1998; Kontal Caraler 8 to 7 to Sater (5) 5-1 (6 Millment) 12 ran

FORM GUIDE

Ardent Scout: Showed spende over lences when taking novice chase at Watherby last December but seemed to have limitations exposed when pulled up before the last behind smart Kadou Norsentals in Grade 2 at same track (3m 11, heavy) last month Knight. Templar: Has looked a useful recruit to chasing, finishing 31 second to the very useful Canton in between two easy wins in the soft at Fortwell (3m 2). On most recent of these he best Drum Battle (sasy winner since), by 4 lengths.

Pedara: Warning pointier, despointing under rules until, stapped up in trip, ran on well to take Plumpton (3m 11, heavy) novice by 8 lengths from Knigdom Of Shades Executive King; Respectable run in handicase company when 8 lengths second of 4 to King Luciter at Kempton (3m, heavy) last time. Previous highlight of excellent season was when besting Lord Of The River in Grade 2 event at Lingfield Secotton Greece Consistent chases, winning four times in hendicase and novices, holds Ardent Secott (2b wome off) on his 14 length second to Kadou Norantais at Wetherby last time. Soft ground performer who stays
Shore Party: Looks held by Knight Templar on a line through Drum Battle, who best him 18 lengths into third at Herritord (3m 11 good) last month. Carried penalty that day for two earlier with in novice company

Tom's River: Impressive winner of two chases at Catterfok on the soft (3m 1f) most recently a handicap where he finished powerfully to best Santa Jet 5 lengths. Has not met top opposition yet but attli reproving

Smarty: Followed top easy win at Warwick over today's trip with a 21-length handicap victory at Laicester (2m 7, soft) last week, Posebby finithered as meriest rival fell three out but still jooks on the upgrade

Annie Buckerte: Easy point winner in liretand who hacked up in her first run for new stable when 27-length winner of mareer novice at Towcester (2m fill heavy) last month.

VERDICT: Tota's River could be very smart on the evidence of two easy victo-ries, as could Toucester winner Annie Buckers. Smarty is still improving and could go close if recovered from his Leicester win. However, it may pay to add with the proven experience of EXECUTIVE KING, who is having an excellent season: 1.15 LADBROKE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) BBC1 32222 GALANT MOSS (FR) (11) (C M., B J & R F Besterhem I) M Pipe 0 12 0 ___G Supple (3) emental green and manour iguartered), hated eleves, emental green cap 3/4-FB SUN SURFER (FR) (60) (C) (The Hon M Simon Sainstury) H Daily 11 in 13 ___S Wyone brown, ibne green eleves, satiped cap 3-105F PREDDIE MUCK (16) (C) (Mrs C Triston-Davies) N Triston-Davies 9 Tr 10____T Junios

29-03-PPEDUE MICK (10) (c) (mile o inschromoly in reput Formation in New York (10) (c) (mile o inschromoly in reput Formation (mile o inschromoly insc yellow, purple incops, purple attends -P222 PEALINGS (14) (C) (G A Hubberd) G Hubberd 7 11 0 ____

FORM GUIDE Gelent Moss: Very useful in France, has not reproduced that yet in two runs for M Pipe, most recently when eased to a walk behind Effectual in S-runner handicap at

Fontwell (2m 2f, heavy). Should appreciate step up in distance
Sun Surfer: Normally consistent hurder but lelf on seasonal debut and jumped poorly when distant sixth in valuable Newbury (2m 5f, good) handcap lest time. Best weiched
Freddile Mucic Former useful hurdler (flast victory Dec '96) but now long-distance
chaser. Most recent effort was when pulled-up behind Zaggy Lane at Taumon (3m 3f, heavy) after seven week lay-off. Today a probable confidence booster after poor chasing efforts

Aboo Hom: Has not run since finishing down the field in SunAlience Novice hurdle at Challanham Festival. Previously showed promise in hard-lought maiden win at Hay-

Bouillient Equiname: Former useful hurdler who spent last term novice chasing. Made resectable comeback when 2 1/4 longths third to Brave Tornado in a Cheltenham (3m

cood to soft handicap last December. Reportedly suffered wind problems last ter Churchtown Gleri: Blandered at the last when 16-lengths little to Easter Ross in a Doncaster (2m 44, good to soft) handicap. Previously won at Haydock (twice) and Pealings: Ran up to his best when 20-lengths second to Teastral at Haydock (2m 5t, soft) last month. He is 3th higher than when winning over this track last Decem-

ber Salesit: Appeared not to stay on his handicap bow when a distent sixth to Birkdale at Wetherby (3m 1, heavy) lest week. Better judged on two serier novice victories Kates Charm: Won a weak mares' novice very easily at Lingfield (2m 3t heavy) lest week, and had previously looked unlucky when third in a much better race at Chep-

stow. Still improving, and could be on a very lenion mark.

Lord York: Has not run since finishing a promising fourth in a Huntingdon (2m 4l, good to firm) novice chase last year. Probably warming up for larger obstacles.

Handy Lase: Has looked in good form this year, especially when taking a Lingfield hunting to Department.

remotes in the control with blinkers ofter a poor effort to be tailed-off behind Atavistic at Kempton (3m, heavy) last month. In with a shout on his previous run at Fontwell VERDICT: Kates Charm won very easily last time and could be a handicap snp. countered. Robert Ainer feels that Ctsurchtown Glien is capable of writing another race off his current mark, and the Martin Pipe-trained Galant Mose cannot be discounted over this more suitable trip. SALEEL has excuses for his last poor effort over unsuitable ground and trip. He goes well for his amateur pilot and looks well handicapped.

1.45 SINGER & FRIEDLANDER NATIONAL TRIAL BBC1 black, red anah, questiered cap 1F40-R OTTOWA (77) (CD) (Paul K Berber) P Nicholis 8 10 0

- 9 declared

Minimum weight: 10st. True rendicep weights: Forest Nory Bst 12b, Zaggy Lane 8st 8tb.
BETTING: 9-4 General Wolfe, 3-2 Fidding The Fects, 5-1 Forest Ivory, 13-2 Kendal Cavallor, 8-1
Ottown, 10-1 Lord Gyllene, 12-1 Him Of Praise, 20-1 others 1898: Ottowoo 8 10 6 T J Murphy 7-2 (P Nicholis) 10 ren FORM GUIDE

Lord Gyllene: 1997 Grand National wirmer still has something to prove after finishing tailed off behind Suny Bay at Haydock (\$m, soft) in December on his comeback General Wolfe: Made brilliant debut for new stable when repeating win in Peter Marsh Chase at Haydock (Sm. ach) last month. Risen 8b for that effort but should still run

Fiddling The Facts: Error-prone front-runner who ran a great race to finish "... length second to Kendel Cevellor (16 worse off) in Welsh National at Chepsiow (3m 54, soft) in December. Would have won but for poor jumps at the last two fences. Ottowa: Useful chaser who won this race last year. Best watched on most recent effort, when refusing at the 14th behind Earth Summit at Aintree (3m 3t, good to soft)

In november

Rudehim: Consistent chaser who has won 13 races, but not seen out since finishing well-behind in a handicap hurdle at Ascot (3m, soft) over a year ago

Kandal Cavatier: Career best win in Welsh National followed a change of stable.

May still have been teeling effects of that run when talled-off next time behind Eu-

stay stay have been issuing a macas or treat run when tolerund heat and behalf but dip at Sendown (5m 5f, soft). Him Of Praises: Pavounte when third in this race lest year after a sequence of wins, he has looked a officult ride, Ran poorly in Welsh National but better effort when binkered to be third behind Baronet at Cheltenhem (4m 1f, good to soft) bast month Forest twory: Frished one-paced 7 lengths third to Kendal Cavaller (4th worse off) in the Welsh National on he last outing. Should run well again today though unlikely in have the name to win. to have the pace to wir. Zaggy Lane: Runs in this in preference to apperently easier task in Novice chase. Has won easily three times this season, incuding here, but still has stiff task from 20to

out of the handican. VERDICT: This should be a very exciting National trial teaturing some fine chasers. Fideling The Fects would surely have won the Welch National if she had jumped fluently but she is too error prone to be trusted with confidence. Kendal Carvaller had his finest hour in the same race, but was disappointing today and, along with Forest Ivory, tooks unitely to have the speed to take the over a slightly shorter trip and on better ground. GENERAL WOLFE meets very different conditions to those he encountered at Heydock, where he is a proven track specialist.

2.20 STANLEY RACING NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £10,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £7,003
4 DOD AD A DESCRIPTION AND THE CASE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF TH

SETTING: 6-4 Transilt, 4-1 Arctic Chanter, Scrahan Cross, 5-1 Relikander, 10-1 Lewesdon Manor

1998: Calling Wild 0 11 ? T J Murphy 5-2 law (P Nicholis) 9 ran FORM VERDICT

A warm little contest with Tremalit possibly shead of the handicapper and Arctic Chenter an interesting newcomer to chasing, but SCRAHAN CROSS gets the vote on his good second at Haydock test time.

2.50 GUINNESS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £7,500 sdded 3m 110yds Penalty Value £5,295

1-26 BUCK'S PALACE (63) (BP) (P K Barber and Mr J Keschler) P Nicholis 6 tt 3. J Trazzard

- 10 declared BETTING: 11-4 Buck's Palace, 3-1 Stewarts Pride, 7-2 Lady Of Gortmerron, 7-1 Connor Macleod, 10-1 Roscy Boy, 14-1 Inferno, Shallegandie, 16-1 others. 1896: Dom Beltreno 8 11 3 W Mirston 2-1 (N Yerston-Davies) 14 ran

Buck's Palece may have been feeling the effects of three relatively quick races when disappointing at Chepstow and has a better chance here. However, hes an unknown quartity on softer ground and preference is for LADY OF GORTIMERRON, who stays

FORM VERDICT

3.25 TATTERSALLS (IRELAND) EBF NOVICE CHASE (Qualifier) (CLASS D) £7.500 edded mares 2m 4f Pensity Value £5,159 -SSAS HURST FLYER (21) (D) IF P Muntaght F Martagh 7 11.4.... A Dobbon

- 9 declared -BETTING: 11-4 Hurst Flyer, 3-1 Just Jeansine, 6-1 Sweet Revelation, Tiger Paves, 7-1 Pearl's Choice, B-1 Mass Pennyhill, 10-1 Super Selfron, 14-1 others 1986. Carteglord Gale 7 Tt 0 R Johnson 16-1 (T George) Tt ran

FORM VERDICT

A trappy mares' novices' chase in which several warrant close scrubny but nothing makes strong appeal. TIGER PAWS showed enough at Leicester to justify select-

TO THE SPOT ON MOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 2m

3	.55	Penalty Value £3,778	ĺ
1	B1	BRILLIANT STAR (NZ) (16) (D) (1 G K Construction Ltd) S Brookshaw 7 to 12 S Wymne	
2	P-10	RICARDO (37) (D) (Par Whelen and Mr Eddle Shorton) Mrs J Perman 5 Tt 12 . O Learny	l
3	000-00	ADIRPOUR (Fit) (Ed Westman) R Holinshead 5 ti 5	
ı		APPROVANCE (USA) (F139) (Saced Manana) O Sherwood 7 11 5 J A McCarthy	
	23	DACHA (65) (BF) (Mrs Nicky Chembers) Miss M Rowland 7 tl 5	
9		DAMUS (GER) (F125) (The Winning Line) Miss V Williams 5 11 5 N Williamson	l
7	5005-P	ERIN ALLEY (161) (L& P Partnership) P R Webber 6 11 5 B Fention	l
8		RLASHTALKINF FLOOD (F123) (Wessex House Racing) Mrs M Riereley 5 ti 5.A Dobbin	l
9	5	MOTET (58) (H.J. James) M. Priman 5 tt 5	ı
D		MOVING ARROW (F112) (Three County) Mrs M Reveloy 8 11 5 Mr A Demosey (3)	l
Ħ	൲	TALK OF A NOSE (17) (3 A Hubbard) G Hubbard 6 tl 5	l
2	0.08	WILL SCARLET (16) JJK S Cresswell J K Cresswell 5 11 5	l
Ç		ROLLING PATCH (30) (Only Fools Have Horses) E Alston 5 11 0 1, Commins (3)	l
4	OP	ROSE SHARP (83) (F Coton) F Coton 5 ti 0	l
5		TIAPHENA (F635) (S Taberner) T Donnelly 8 til 0	l

BETTING: 7-2 Britiset Star, 4-1 Damus, 6-1 Approvance, 13-2 Ricardo, 7-1 Moving Arrow, 6-1 Dacha.

Motet, 16-1 others 1996 Real Estate 4 11 2 R Johnson 6-5 fav (D Nicholson) 12 ran

FORM VERDICT

Approvance and Damus are interesting recruits but hundle expensions counts for a good deal and both DACHA and Britishnt Star look safer bets.



THE SWEEPER

BY CLIVE WHITE AND NICK HARRIS



FA powerbrokers made in Sheffield

Terry Venables and Glenn Hoddle, have had their chance. Now it's the turn of the Sheffield mafia to take control at Lancaster Gate - and we're not just talking about Howard Wilkinson.

Apart from the FA's technical director and caretaker England coach, there are also the international committee members Geoff Thompson and Dave Richards, while completing the powerbrokers' quartet is David Davies, who has been standing in as chief executive following the departure of Graham Kelly. Even two of the newly appointed coaches, Nigel Pearson and Nigel Spackman, are from Sheffield.

Davies, who has harmy been out of the public eye during the recent Hoddle furore, is the most surprising product of the Steel City, not least because he is a dyed-in-thewool Manchester United fan. "Well, he is from London," as a colleague remarked. Davies has not forgotten his roots, however, and occasionally returns to Sheffield to lecture at the university in journalism.

Sheffield used to be called the "Cradle of Football". In fact Sheffield FC, an amateur club, claims to be the oldest club in the world. So football is really coming home. But for how long is another

Rather like the tenure of its two clubs, Wednesday and United, in the top flight, it may only be temporary. After all, Wilkinson is only acting coach, Thompson is only acting FA chairman and Davies is only acting

THE DISABLED have been in the spotlight the past week after Hoddle's crass comments about them, but in the Northern Counties East League Darren Bonnington goes about his business in the Maltby Main goal without fuss. One-handed saves are par for the course for Bonno, who was born without a left hand and has just a little finger and a thumb. He has compensated for his don't even know that he has one. make his debut for the reserves standing keeper and I believe he has mate, Lee Hughes, now with West Barnsley.

Name: Wolfie Wolf.

Club: Wolves (surprisingly).

Str. AB Str. 2.1 Me Spe 8.2 2.1

OD Str Cor 2.3 Enc 3.4 Ste 1.4 Litt Ste 7.1 9.2

5TI NE HO Sur 4.0 Ste 4.4 spe 6.4 1.5 Ver

SUI UCL Our The 2.10 7pn Sta 1.4: 12n Gro-Litt The 6.5n Egy Sha 4.1! 1.1!

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TUE

Turn 6.30 4.15

UXE

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WAI ABC

the talent to play at a much higher Bromwich Albion and the counlevel. The fact that he has only one hand does not bother him nor does it interfere with his goalkeeping. He commands his area and comes and catches the crosses that are knocked into the penalty box full of: confidence." Bonno even refrains from punching the ball. "I find it just as easy to take 'ne catches," he said. There are a few foreign keepers who could learn something from him.

SONG SHEET Extract from a Wolves song to the supporters of the Baggies

appointed Worcester City manager, Grah...m Allner, told his board he knew just the man to "get us out of jail", one hopes that he warned them that "first, though, we have to get him out of jail." When Alluer made Darren Steadman whom he had signed 12 years earlier when manager of Kidderminster Harriers - his first signing, the only problem was that Steadman was serving a two-year sentence with one year suspended for a £70,000 mortgage and wine har swindle. The authorities at Hewell Grange Prison, near Redditch, however, have allowed Steadman to mier Division club under a resettlement scheme for offenders and disability so well that opponents the 29-year-old was allowed out to

WHEN THE recently

try's leading goalscorer. There could be a problem, though, with evening kick-offs. Steadman has to be back behind bars by 9.30pm.

IF YOU thought John Spencer was relieved to get away from Everton after the resurrection of his Motherwell move - "it couldn't have been any better had Cindy Crawford been on the other

end of the line asking me out for dinner"-you should have heard what Billy Davies, the Motherwell manager and Spencer's brother-in-law, had to say when he thought Spencer had returned to Goodison for good after his loan spell. "I feel like going home and dousing myself in four-star petrol." he said. "Just how do you replace John Spencer?"

It must make a pleasant change for the wee man to be loved so after the disparaging remarks made about him by Everton chairman Peter Johnson. I'm not too sure. though, whether Pat Nevin, the Motherwell chief executive, who secured his release for £500,000, will be so delighted. "When I get back up the road I'll have to kiss him on the lips," said Spencer.

DON GOODMAN knows just the place for those players - and I don't mean David Beckham who are tired of being booed week in, week out. Japan.

The former Wolves striker, who is back in England on loan to Barnsley during the J-League's close season, said of his new experience with San Frecce Hiroshima: "There is plenty of skill in Japan but no one seems to take it personally. "You get the same amount of ap-

plause if you lose as when you In fact, he found himself missing the pressure that he was under to perform while with the First

Division's great underachievers. "I missed the intensity of the English game - the desire to win play for the Dr Martens League Pre- and the hurt you feel if you lose," he said. Goodman must be loving it at Oakwell just now then - he hasn't scored a single goal since he joined

"I have known Bonno a long time day. Watching him was his friend the start of the new season on 18 and he's a great lad and an out- and former Kidderminster team- March, two days after Wolves visit



BOBBY ROBSON (main picture, flares) has enjoyed success as the England manager and with several

AS YOU WERE

THE PRICE IS RIGHT

calamity when three bets went hammer West Ham at Upton down by a single goal Here's Park Florentina, top of Serie A hoping we won't have to wait until and 3-1 winners at the San Siro our next trip round the reincar- earlier in the season, can beat Derby w Everton ivernool who let us down Italian cracker whil for a draw with Coventry, can Wimbledon can force a draw with SUNDAY CA STALIAN JOB

A LORRYLOAD of bad Manchester United who did the karma from a previ- business for us at The Valley, can ous life. That can be cut down Forest and Arsenal the only explanation who destroyed our draw bet with . (£4.50 treble with Stanley): Liverpool for last week's biblical a 1-0 verdict over Chelsea - can atone by beating Boro at Anfield, Chariton at the unhappy Valley.

LIBERO WAGERS to beat Middlesbrough (8-13); Man Utd to win at Nottingham Forest (4-7); Arsenal to win at West Ham (5-4). SUNDAY SKY MATCH ORIGINAL BANK: £100.

European club sides since his Ipswich team won the FA Cup in 1978. Today (left) he's in contention to

coach the national side again. Quite why, when the job turned him grey the first time, is anyone's guess,

nation conveyor belt to collect Milan in Florence in Channel 4's Derby (£3, 4-6, Coral, William Hill &

Florentina (£5.50, 10-11, Coral, William Hill & Stanley). **MONDAY SKY MATCH** Draw (£2, 9-4, Coral & Tote).

CURRENT KITTY: £132,42!

TODAY'S BETS: £16.35 (including

MASCOT ON THE MAT

Appearance: A wolf sporting an old gold and black shirt. Crime sheet: Wolfie had the Ashton Gate crowd howling with laughter when he took it upon himself to be the instigator of a mass brawl at half-time during a First Division game in November. Wolfie was joined by the Bristol City cat and three pigs - representing double glazing firm Coldseal - in a mass bout of fisticuffs. An FA spokesman said: "Certain actions that might be regarded as hilarious by one set of supporters might strike the others as provocative."
In mitigation, Your Honour: Bristol City supporters found the whole incident quite the funniest thing they'd seen all day. One said: "It was the best halftime entertainment I've ever seen in 22 years watching football.' It was the only thing the Robins' fans had to smile about as their side were mauled 6-1. Other information: Coldseal later informed Wolves they will no longer send their pig mascots to their matches. At least Wolfie is still in a job, unlike City Cat,

MY TEAM



MICHAEL PARKINSON BARNSLEY

Chat show legend

"I was taken to my first game at five. At half-time I was asked "What do you think?" and I said "Can I go home now?" and I was told "No" and it started there. In the late 60s or early 70s I was over in America. It's like a sickness, but you try to find the results and I looked in one of the papers and it said 'Stockport County 21 Barnsley 1.' I spent \$15 or \$20 on phone calls trying to find out the worst and discovered the score had actually been I-I, which was almost as bad as 21-1. The best moment was when we were promoted to the Premiership. And watching Danny Blanchflower, well that was a joy and a pleasure."

IN T'NET

Found on the Web: Football 365. DANNY KELLY'S daily is probably the best source of up-to-date football news and features on the web. On top of all the breaking news you'd expect, the opinion polls such as yesterday's (which asked whether a Scot could be the England manager and looked likely to find a small majority against), the critical round-up of the day's media coverage, and the "bollox" section (footballers talking cobblers) are all interesting staples. The "lookalikes", while amusing have shown an increasing reliance on cartoon characters, but no one who looks at the Robbie Fowler-George Formby likeness can cry foul. http://www.football365.co.uk/

SEEN BUT NOT BOUGHT

QUITE THE ugliest football-related cuddly toy must be the Arsenal Guenersaurus, a green monster in a club shirt. The shirt is, for some bizarre reason, tucked into a particular what look like thermal long-johns. Rumours the resene Wenger insisted on the club shop stocking as a items (at £18.99 each) solely because they are sought after in France and he covets all things popular across the channel (usually players) are unlikely ever to be confirmed.

THEY'RE NOT **ALL DENNIS** BERGKAMP

Unsung foreign legionnaires No 25 **KJELL OLOFSSON: The** 33-year-old Swedish striker played for Orgryte and Vastra Frolunda in his home country before moving to Moss in Norway, and then, in 1996, to Dundee United for £400,000. Olofsson has won but a solitary international cap, at the Olympics, but has been a firm supporters' favourite since he moved to Scotland. Tangerines fans sing 'Olofsson's in the air' to the time of Love is in the air' to their hero, who was top scorer at Tannadice last season and the third top scorer in Scotland. Perhaps played too wide to fulfil his potential. Kjell scored last week against Dunfermline nevertheless



The joy of Bantams beating heavyweights

WHEN my beloved Barnsley beat Bradford City on 26 April 1997 to secure promotion to the Premier League, it was almost too easy to forget that our vanquished rivals had taken another step towards the trapdoor to the Second Division.

who was sacked on the spot.

Nothing else mattered - the Reds were up, and that was it. The final whistle blew, and the inevitable pitch invasion began. What was this, though - why were Bradford's supporters staying in their seats, clapping, cheering, as though they were the ones who had something to celebrate? Of all the images I remem-

ber of that fateful afternoon, nothing sticks in my mind more than those away fans, bedecked in orange and yellow, putting their own woes to one side to share in our joy. Five days later, on the night

of the General Election, 500

Barnsley supporters made the short journey to the Pulse Stadium to see Bradford take on Oldham Athletic in a game which some would argue was more important than the shennanigans between Blair and Major. Chris Kamara's team had to win, or fall through the trapdoor. Happily, win they did, and the 3-0 drubbing of Queen's Park Rangers on the final Sunday ensured the Bantams

would be playing First Division football in 1998. Now, almost two years on, as Bradford lie second in the First Division, the similarities between City's promotion push are strikingly similar to those of Barnsley. All season City have been considered unworthy of a place at the top end of the table, and the club have not been given the recognition their

achievements merit. I'm sure I speak for all

FAN'S EYE **VIEW**

BRADFORD CITY BY PAUL **STEVENSON**

Barnsley's fans when I say that I hope Bradford make it. After the way those fans conducted themselves, they deserve their day in the sunshine. Regular supporters have long said the seventh-biggest city in England deserves Premiership football, and it would be fantastic if this could be

Like Barnsley, because nobody has given much credence to their rise, there is no pres- anybody says, Bradford de- early May.

can bring with it an easier ride to the finish line. Back in 1997, Wolves were the big-name team who were expected to overhaul their unfancied rivals, but, Mark McGhee will remember his side's required upturn in form never materialised. This season, for "bigspending Midlands rivals with a tendency to blow up" read

Birmingham, not Wolves. expecting Bradford to get promoted, come straight down again, and then see Paul Jewell scoot off to Leeds United after telling everybody he loved them and would not go. On second thoughts, there is surely just the one manager with such a lack of principles?

sure and no expectancy on the players to complete the job. As Danny Wilson will testify, this man, Geoffrey Richmond, has backed the manager, Paul Jewell, with hard cash, and for his investment to pay off so soon would be testimony to the redoubtable Liverpudlian's ability to get the best out of his play-

Whether they can stay there or not is a different matter. The gap between the haves and the have-nots is becoming more difficult to bridge every My, this is so spooky, I'm half year, and it is a chasm which can no longer be overcome by muck and nettles alone.

If City are to go up and stay there, it will require quality players with belief that they are able to compete as equals with the best players in the land, because once those heads go down, the death rat-Make no mistake, whatever the sets in and remains until

It's amazing to see players who produced football to such a level that it was allegedly "just like watching Brazil" reduced to struggling to put two passes together in a matter of

Once Chelsea did for us 6-0 at home in our third match, I knew, I just knew that we weren't going to make it. No matter how much bravado on behalf of the manager or defiance from the players, the game was up... on 24 August.

We had been stuffed in front of our own fans and the Sky TV cameras; the decline was swift. Just look at us now ...

So while I hope Bradford do get there. I just hope that there is one similarity between our two clubs that City do not emulate. It's a different world up there, and I wish you kick, for you will need it.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

You and I have been physically given two hands and two legs and half-decent brains. Some people have not been born like that for a reason. The karma is working from another lifetime. I have nothing to hide about that. What you sow you reap. You have to look at things that happened in your life and ask why. It

comes around Glenn Hoddle, England coach Thank God Mother Teresa

Leonard Cheshire and Florence Nightingale didn't take the Hoddle view of disabled people Lord Alf Morris, former minister for the disabled

In a previous incarnation I must have been a failed football coach David Blunkett, education minister, who is blind

I do as I'm told. They give me the pick and shovel and l dig where they say to dig Howard Wilkinson on the immediate future

I could have tried to save it all by revealing my mum works at a school for the disabled Glenn Hoddle keeps it in the family

The players are being brainwashed Gary Player on the way golfers are over-coached

I've had my eyes gouged, the back of my head punched, my ribs elbowed and various parts of my anatomy squeezed. When any side starts those antics you know you've got them

beaten Ulster prop Rab Irwin reflects on Colomiers in the Heineken Cup final



Jewell's

gems in

recovery

NATIONWIDE *

HAVING PUNCHED above their weight all season, Paul Jewell's Bradford are not about to let last

Sunday's late stumble to the

canvas at the hands of Birmingham upset their plans to join the big hitters of English football

Like the most determined pugilist, the Bradford manager

urged his charges to show "100

per cent commitment and de-

sire" at the start of the season

and believes they have re-

sponded admirably. The west

Yorkshire side are in second

place in the First Division and in

position for a play-off place at

after dominating the game but

Jewell is adamant his team can

overcome that setback when

Watford visit Valley Parade, "We

can't ask for any more from the

players. We demand 100 per

cent commitment and desire to

the cause," Jewell said. "We are

getting that and allied to the apil-

ity of the players, I think we'll be

OK. But as soon as we stop

working hard, we'll be in trou-

ble. We have recovered from last

week's defeat because we have

Watford might be content

to. It's no good feeling sorry for

with last week's 2-1 victory over

the League leaders, Sunder-

land, hut Graham Taylor in-

sists victory today would be an

even greater scalp. "For us, to

go and win at Bradford will be

that last week's victory over Sun-

derland," the manager said.

bigger and better achievement

Lee Clark returns for Sun-

derland against Swindon at the

Stadium of Light, defusing talk

that be was about to leave the

club. Clark was involved in an

on-field argument with club

captain, Kevin Ball, during the

2-1 Worthington Cup semi-final

first leg defeat by Leicester and

was then left out of the squad

for the defeat at Watford due to

a knock on the ankle he broke

on the opening day of the sea-

son. However, the Wearsiders'

. assistant manager, Bob Saxton,

and he is not available for

City were beaten last Sunday

mode

By Wyn Griffiths

Kettering on the climb to pastures new

The Poppies' blossoming challenge for promotion to the Football League is backed by an ambitious chairman with a taste for high life. By Phil Shaw

WRECKED American World War reputedly lies beneath Kettering Town's pitch, while the favoured site for their new stadium is a breakers' yard for old bangers. Yet the scrap that preoccupies their chairman is of neither the crashed nor crushed variety. but the one for promotion to the Football League.

Peter Mallinger has experienced the emotional extremes of hig-time football, having been vice-chairman of his first love, Newcastle United, for a year at the start of the Kevin Keegan/Sir John Hall era. It would be a mistake, however, to imagine he is blase about the prospect of Kettering winning the Nationwide Conference championship.

It is even disturbing his sleep, though not with the cold sweat over money and managers that afflicts many chairmen, or even the frustration of Saturday's last-gasp defeat by Doncaster. "Sometimes I wake up with the excitement of it all and go 'Yesss!'," he explains, pushing his fist into his palm. "For this club to go into the League after 127 years ... the prize is massive. And there's only 14 games left."

Kettering start today's home match with Dover a point clear of Cheltenham. Intriguingly, the third serious contenders are their Northamptonshire neighbours, the mega-rich Rusbden & Diamonds. They make the eight-mile journey to Rockingham Road next month - a week after Kettering go to Cheltenbam - with the return fixture on the season's last day.

"The Diamonds' rise has made our job much more pressure," says Mallinger, who Kettering and bought "The

CUMBERS

and Irthlingborough Diabomber plane from the Second monds. "It has also provided some nice local rivalry, though I'd he happier if we were competing on level terms

> "A number of people from this town drifted off to support them because they were a winning side, whereas there wasn't much to cheer here. But I'd never say anything against Max because he's a terrific guy, and he'a doing exactly what I'd love to do. I just wish I had his money."

Kettering's challenge this season has surprised many, including the bookmakers, who listed them as 20-1 ninth favourites. Fifteen months ago they were bottom of the Conference after taking 14 games to win in 1997-98. They eventually finished 14th, the same as

'I'd love to be sitting here in June with a copy of the Third Division fixture list, and I'm confident it will happen'

Why the dramatic improvement? "Two words," says Mallinger. "Peter Morris. Before my time bere, Peter was manager for five years and took Kettering to runnersup. But there was a big upheaval and be was forced out. He went off to manage Boston United and then King's Lynn.

"When we parted with our manager last summer, I went for Peter. Some people said we shouldn't be looking back, but his feeling was that he came to challenging and added to the do a job: to get this club into the League. He's just picked up

"He assured me, even before Poppies" from the liquidators he'd put his squad together that for £100,000 soon after Max we'd be in the top six. At Griggs merged Rushden Town Newcastle when John Hall



The Kettering chairman Peter Mallinger (right) and Mick Cheney manager Peter Morris

looked you in the eye and said something would happen, you believed him. It's the same Only three of last season's

side survived Morris' revamp. One, Carl Adams, delivers bread in Birmingham for eight hours from 2am on Saturdays, and according to Mallinger has to have his eyes propped open with matchsticks after the bus picks him up. The contrast with the 30 full-timers available to Rushden's ex-Kettering manager, Brian Talbot, could hardly he greater. Morris, who managed at

Crewe, Mansfield and Peterborough and coached Newcastle, has relied on free transfers and his knack of spotting young talent. One of Kettering's discoveries, the speedy, 6ft 1in striker Ben Wright, has guested for Leeds and Bolton reserves; another, the midfielder Matt Fisber, is also attracting Premiership

Mallinger is aware that some of the clubs promoted from the Conference have strayed out of their depth. Asked whether Kettering could cope with League football, he rubs his hands, "Ob yes, please. It's what we've been planning for. The support's there, too. We had to coax them back at first, but we've had well over 8,000 at the last three home games.

What Macclesfield and Halifax have achieved shows that we shouldn't be frightened. I'd love to be sitting bere in June with a copy of our Third Division fixture list, and I'm quietly confident it will

As he speaks, he surveys the ground from the elevated office that nestles in one corner. It team coach, McClaren was apwith the events of the past day used to be the manager's bolt- pointed United's assistant and a half. "It's all happened move on. It's a great opportu- miership title in 1995, has been bole, and Ron Atkinson, who launched his managerial career at Kettering, describes it as the best office he ever had. Soon, though, it may be rubble.

"We want to move because the days when you could finance a club by revenue from the turn-stiles are gone," argues Gabriel Batistuta, the amazing stiles are gone," argues Mallinger. "We've got no facilities for corporate entertainment like they have at Kidderminster or dare I say it, the Diamonds."

Kettering hope to be in their new ground by 2001, possibly at Florence tomorrow. the cars' graveyard by the A14. Perhaps, when the hulldozers move in at their current home. the mystery of whether a US fighter really did nosedive into the pitch will be solved. In the meantime, the plan is to prove that League status is no mere flight of fantasy.



Steve McClaren (right) bids farewell to Derby County's Stefanio Eranio yesterday

McClaren made United coach

how Howard Wilkinson felt after becoming Alex Ferguson's new right-hand man. Wilkinson claimed his head was in a spin after be was appointed caretaker manager of England following Glenn Hoddle's sacking and McClaren used the same words to describe his feelings at joining Manchester United.

Thirty-six bours after Ferguson asked his Derby counterpart, Jim Smith, for permission to speak to his firstmanager. McClaren agreed to pretty quickly and my head is nity for me." join United yesterday after talks still in a spin," he said.

STEVE McCLAREN knows just By DAVID ANDERSON

at Old Trafford and later teamed up with the players at their Nottingham headquarters.

The Yorkshireman will make his first appearance alongside Ferguson at Nottingham Forest today and will be formally welcomed to the club on Monday.

Ferguson approached Smith after Wednesday's Premiership match between the teams at Old Trafford and McClaren revealed

McClaren takes over from reserve-team coach Jim Ryan, who had been Ferguson's assistant since Brian Kidd left to become manager of Blackburn. Smith had been grooming Mc-Claren to succeed him at Pride Park and the former County player admitted that while he

was sad to be leaving he could not turn down United. "The chairman, the board, Jimmy and all the rest of the swiftly to appoint Ray Harford staff have been brilliant," be be was still coming to terms said. "But in football things happen quickly and people helped Blackburn win the Pre- a player with this football club

Milan threatened by Batistuta

development officer at Oxford. will now be viewed as the frontrunner to succeed Ferguson when the United manager finally decides to retire in three or four years' time.

Smith was disappointed to lose McClaren, who is regarded as one of the best and most innovative young coaches in the game, but be has moved as his replacement for the rest insists that Clark is staying. "As of the season. Harford, who far as I'm aware, Lee Clark is out of the game since he left McClaren, 37, who began his Queen's Park Rangers last year

transfer," he said. Colin Todd, the Nationwide manager of the month, is understandably convinced that his Bolton side are fast becoming the team to be heat after a 12match unbeaten run ahead of the visit to Grimsby. "I'm sure Grimsby will rise to the occasion. Every team in the League is looking to beat Bolton right now," Todd said.

The Manchester City manager. Joe Royle, has warned his players there must be no repeat of September's bad-tempered meeting with Millwall when the two sides meet in the Second Division today: "We'll need calm heads and discipline," he said. We have to be aggressive and strong hut we must be sure to finish the game with 11 players on the pitch."

three ahead of Lazio and five ahead Milan (third).

Argentina striker, takes centre stage as Fiorentina, the league leaders and the club he captains, entertain Milan in Channel 4's live Serie A game in

"Batigol" has scored a sensational 18 goals in 19 games in the world's classiest league this term - including a hat-trick in Fiorentina's 3-1 victory over Milan at the San Siro earlier in the season - and his outstanding form is the principal reason why Fiorentina hold a chance of

BY IAN DAVIES

winning their first Scudetto for

30 years. The club has 41 points, Batistuta leads but, this sea-

son, Fiorentina are no one-man hand Fiorentina used to be Serie A's most inconsistent side at the back, but coach Giovanni Tranattoni's shrewd summer signings, Jörg Heinrich and Moreno Torricelli, have strengthened their defence and, and Portugal's Rui Costa have given Batistuta great support.

Fiorentina have an awesome 100 per cent record at home this term. Their 10-match winning run at their Artemio Franchi stadium leaves them fast closing on the Serie A record, 14, set by Torino in 1975-76.

Milan are a resurgent force after suffering their worst two seasons in two decades. Alberto Zaccheroni, their new coach. and Oliver Bierhoff, the German striker, who both joined the club ner. After initial sulking from the Liberian George Weah, the Brazilian Leonardo and Maurizio Ganz, Zaccheroni has imposed an exciting 3-4-3 formation on his club with effect. Fiorentina are at full

strength hut the Milan goalkeeper Sebastiano Rossi is still suspended. Weah returns for Milan from international duty.

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chesser v Man-chester (5 30), Edinburgh v Worthing (5 0) Milton Keynes v Newcasile (4 0), Sheifield v Leicester (4.0)

ICE HOCKEY

SQUASH: British Closed Champ-ortship

BADMINTON: English National Champonships (at Hayward Heath).

TODAY

FOOTBALL 3.0 unless stated FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

1 Aston Villa v Blackburn NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

Batasley v Crewe Bradford Ciry v Waitord 13 Grunsby v Bolton 14 Norwich v Stockport 15 Port Vale v Huddersheld . 16 Portsmouth v Transpere

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION 20 Bournemouth y Stoke

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

35 Patrepoough v Barret
37 Plymouth v Cardiff
38 Rother ham v Southend
39 Starborough v Cambridge Utd
Strewsbury v Rochdale
Lorquey v Scunthorpe SCOTTISH PREMIER

FIRST DIVISION

44 Ayr v Morton

55 Ciydebank v Falkirk ... Postponed

SECOND DIVISION 49 Arbroath v Alioa

- Clyde v Livingaton

- East Fife v Partick

- Oueen of South v Forfar

- Scriing Aiblon v Inverness Cal THIRD DIVISION

 Albion Rovers v Brechlin

Berwick v East Stirling

Dumbarton v Cowdenbeath...

Montrose v Queen's Park - Montrose v Queen's Park - Ross County v Stenhousemuir NATIONWIDE CONPERENCE

- Rettering v Dover

- Leek Town v Welling

- Leek Town v Welling

FA UMBERO TROPHY Fourth round:
Aldershot Tn v Altrincham; Ashton Unlted v 5: Alban's City: Aylesbury v Whitby
Town: Boston Util v Reddirch Tutt: Cheltenham v Stevenage: Chesham v Hendon:
Colwyn Bay v Bradford Park Avenue; Dagenham & Reddridge v Telford: Guiseley
v Emley: Hitchin v Weston-super-Mare;
Northwich v Wortester: Runcorn v Southport; Weymouth v Forest Green: Whytsleafe v Kingstonian; Woking v Rushden &
Damonds: Yeovil v Hinckley Utd.

THE RYNAM FOOTBALL LEAGUE Pramiler Division: Basingstoke v Boreham
Wood: Bromley v Dulwich: Gravesend v
Carshalton; Hampton v Billericay Tr. Purfleet v Slough: Walton & Hersham v Enfield. Pirst: Divisions: Barton Rovers v
Wembley; Berkhamsted Town v Worthing: Canney Island v Molesey; Croydon
v Romfort: Lestherhoad v Madehead Und:
Leyton Pennant v Braintree Town: Underlidge
v Grays Athlects: Wealdstone v Chertsey
Vown: Yeading v Ordord City, Second Division: Abingdon Town v Mariow; Bedlord Town v Brackell Town; Chalifont St.
Peter v Wokingham Town; Hartow Town
v Hertford Town: Hunger ford Town v Horham: Leighton Town v Edgware Town: Met
Police v Baiking, Northwood v Tooting &
Mitcham; Windsor & Eron v Hernel Hemp
her Town v Banstead Athlert. Tahra
noe Town v Banstead Athlert. Tahra
noe Town v Banstead Athlert. Tahra
News. Croydon Athlete v Clapton; Dorle
ing v Corinhian Casuals; Egiam Town v
Hernel Well Well Server V Hornel Hemp
Tibury v Wingote & Finchley. Tring Town
v Ford Utd; Ware v Kingsbury Town.
UNIBOND LEAGUE Presaler Debision:
Bishop Auckland v Barpher Bridge: Blyth
Bishop Auckland v Barpher Bridge: Blyth Tilbury V Wingsbury Town.

V Ford Urd: Ware v Kingsbury Town.

UNIBOND LEAGUE Presider Diedsless
Bishôp Auckland v Bamber Birdge: Blyth
Spartans v Accrington Stanley; Gateshead
v Hyde Urd: Lancaster v Marine: Spernymoor
r Fickhey: Stalybridge v Leigh RMI; WinsJord Urd v Gairsborough; Worksop v Chorley. Plirat Divisions: Affreton Gown v Farsley
Ceitic: Belper Town v Stocksbridge P S; Gretna v Great Harwood Town; Hochalf Town
v Filston, Lincoln Urd v Congleton Town;
NetherBeld Kendal v Droylsden; Raddiffe
Borough v Eastwood Kown; Trafford v Matlock Town; Whitley Bay v Burscough; Witton Albion v Harrogate Town.

DR BLARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division: Atherstone v Crawley Town; Bath City v Granthart; Bromsgrove v Blasston Tr. Burron Albion v Salisbui y: Dorchester v Nuneaton: Glouchster City v Gresley Rovers; Merthyr v Halesowen; Rothwell Town v Worcester City i Brown of North Stand Divisions: Bedworth Urd v Bloowich Town; Blaton Town v Wisbech Town; Stalington; Borr; R C Warrwick v VS Rugby; Shepshed Dynamo v Sutton Coldfield Town; Stourbridge v Cinder ford Town; Bashley v Raundar v Stamford AFC. Southers Division: Andover v Brackley Town; Bashley v Raundar is waterloaville; Hown; Bushley v Raundar is waterloaville; Hown; Town; Bashley v Raundar is waterloaville; Newsport (Divi) v Ashford Town; Donn v Baldock Town; Yate Town v Margate.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE Pirst Division: Bedlington Terries v Gusborough Town Billingham Town v Tow Law Yow: Consect v Dester Le Street Crook Town v Penrith; Marske Urd v Jarrow Pooling; Morpeth Town v Durston Federation; Newcastle Blue Star v West Auckland: Seaham Red Star v Easington; South Shelds v Shidoon; Stockton v Billingham Synthonia.

NORTHERNA COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Pressler Division: Brigg Town v Armthoppolitics of Shidon; Stockton v Billingham Synthonia.

NORTHERNA COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Pressler Division: Brigg Town v Armthoppolitics; Button v Ossent Alborn Endeshill Urd v Sheffield; Glasshoughton Welfare v Garforth Town; Hallam v Maitby M.V. Liversedge v Pontefract Cols; Ossett Town v Densky United; Pressler Wissona; Alberton I. R v Sc Heien; Trackley v Arnold Town.

Trackley v Arnold Yown.
NOUTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE
FURE DYNAMOR Alberton L R v St Heiens
Town: Glossop North End v Bootle: Holker Old Boys v Cheadle Town; Mossley v
Clitheroe; Newcastle Town; Mossley v
Clitheroe; Newcastle Town; Workington;
Prescot Cables v Nancwich Town;
Rossendae Urd v Kidsgrove Athletic; Salford City v Leek C S O B; Steamersdale Urd
v Ramsbottom Urd; Yaushall G M v Atherton Colleries.

ton Collieries.

INTERLINK EXPRESS Midland Allianocc.
Bartwell v Oldbury Und; Boldmere St.
Michaels v Bridgaporn Town Halesswein Harriers v Petsal Ville; Kings Norton Town v
Scrarford Town; Rocester v Wednesfield;
Rushall Olympik v Pershore Town; Shifnal
Town v Kryporsley Victoria; Stapenhill v
Sandweil Borough; Willenhall Town v West
Midlands Police.

Middands Police

LEM. SPORT LIRATED COUNTIES LEAGUE

Pressler Divisions Blackstone v Stotfold;
Boston v Buckingstam; Bourne v Sr. Neots;
Cogention v Spalding; Hotbeach v Ford
Sports; Long Buckby v Kempston; Porton
vN Spencer Wellingsborough v Desborough;
Wootton v S & L Corby, Yavley v Eynesbury.

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE AND POOLS CHECK

estoft Rown; Stowmarket Town v Warboys; Woodbridge Town v Watton Utd; Wrocham v Sudbury Town.

JEWISON WIESSEX LEAGUE Pirst Divisions Ar. Totton v Hamble ASSC; Bemerton Hearth Harl v Fareham Town; Brockenhurst v Eastelegh; Downton v Christchurch; Gosport Borough v Bournemouth; Lymigton & New Milton v Thatcham Town; Portsmouth R.N v Cowes Sports; Whitchurch Utd v Money Fields; Wimborne Town v BAT.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE Premier Divisions: Beclenham Town v Ramsgare; Canterbury City v Lordswood; Crockenhill v Greenwich Borough; Deal Town v Rambridge Wells; Herne Bay v Thamesmed Town; Hythe Utd v Cray Wanderers, Sheppey Utd v Whitstable Town; Sade Green v Erith Town; V C D Archiect v Chatham Town.

UNIDET SUSSEEX COUNTY LEAGUE First

VWINISTADE DWIT SLADE UPEN YERD NOW.

UNLIET SUSSER COUNTY LEAGUE First Divisions Broadbridge Heath V HASSOCKS; Eastbourne Town v East Preston; Hallsham Town v Rednit; Pagham v Ringmen; Sathean Urd v Chichester City; Selsey v Eastbourne Urd; Whitehawk v Langney Sports.

SCHEMIFOR DIRECT LEAGUE Prumier Division; Bidelord v Yeovil TR; Bishop Sutton v Barnstaple Town; Bridgovarer Rown; Elmore v Chippenham Town; Mangotsfield Urd v Westbury Urd; Melisham Town v Caine Town; Odd Down v Therton Rown; Pauton Rovers v Keynsham Town; Taunton Town v Backwell Utd.

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND
LEAGUE Brora Rangers v Eign City;
Clachnacuddin v Fraserburgh; Fort William
v Reits; Hantly v Cove Rangers; Lossiemouth
v Forres Mechanics; Narm County v Deveromate; Rothes v Buckle Theste; Wick
Academy v Peterhead.

Academy v Peterhead.

SRURNOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Divisions Glenaron v Coleraine; Glentoran v Ballymena; Linfield v Crusaders: Newry v Cilicomille: Omagh Rown v Portadown. First Divisions Bangor v Ballydare; Carrack v Dungannon Swifts; Lame v Distillery; Limavady Utd v Ards.

LEAGUE OF WALES (2.30): Afan Lido v Connair's Cuay. Bangor City v Hotywell: Caernarfon Town v Aberystwyth; Caersws v Carmarthen Rown; Hayer Jordwest v Cwmbran; Inter Cable-Tel v Conwy. Newtown v Rhy; Rhayder Town v Barry Rown.

FAL HAVE LAGER Sealor Challange Cup PM HARP LAGER Senior Challenge Cup Second round: Sligo Rovers v Cobh Ram-blers (7.30).

RUGBY UNION 2.30 unless stated Ireland v France (2.15) (at Lansdowne Rood) Scotland v Wales (4.15) (at Murrayfield)

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP ONE Harlequins v Leicester (3.0)

Premierahlo Twe: Blackheath v Wakefield (3.0); Bristol v Rotherham (3.0), Pytde v Waterlox London Weish v Moseley (2.0); Orrell v Coventry (3.0); Rugby v Worcester (3.0). JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE One: Birmingham/Solfhull v Newbury. Camberley whenley, Harnogate v Randing; Liverpool Sc Heiens v Rosslyn Park; Manchester v Lydney (2.15); Nottonsham v Mortey (3.0); Wharfedale

Herley, Harrogate v Reading, Liverpool St Helens v Rosslyn Partic, Manchester v Lydney (2, 15; Nothingham v Morley (3,0); Wharfedale v Otley (2,15). Ture Morth: Aspatria v Numeator, Kendal v Whitchurch; Uchrield v Sandal; Sedgley Park v Hinckley, Shetheld v Preston Grasshoopers; Walsall v Stoubridge, Winnington Park v New Brighton. Ture Seouth Backinell v Bridgeater (2,15); Cheltenham v Olfron, North Watsham v Barking, Norwich v Havant; Plymouth v Esher; Redruth v Island (3,0); Weston-super-Mare v Met Police (3,0). HOCKEY

HOCKEY

SOUTH PREMIER: Blackheath v Fereham;
Bournemouth v City of Portsmouth;
Chichester v Anchorians; High Wycombe v Herne Bay; Old Cranleighans v Beckenham; Tunbridge Weils v Richmond; Wimbledon v Gore Court; Winchester v Malderhead; Woking v Purley, Wokingham v Old Whitgiltians.

DTZ MEDLAND PREMIER: Leek v Harborne; North Notts v Coventry & North Warwick. North Staffs v Khalsa; Northampon Saints v Shrewsbury; Northingham v Edgbaston; Otton & West Warwick v Hampton-In-Arden.

PREMIER HOLDAY'S EAST PREMIER: Cambridge Univ. v Cambridge City. Clacton v Blueharts; Ipswich v Cotchester; Peterborough Town v Crostyx; West Herts v Bedford Bown.

NORTH PREMIER: Ben Rhydding v

NORTH PREMIER: Ben Rhydding v Sheffield Bankers; Durham Unlu v Harro-gate: Formby v Chester; Neston v Norton; Southport v Bowdon; Warrington v Rother-WEST OF ENGLAND & SOUTH WALES

WEST OF ENGLAND & SOUTH WALES
PREMIERS Gloucester v Bath Buccaneers.
Robinstons v Yeovil & Sherborner Swansea v Taonton Valer; West Willis v Weszon-superMare: Whitchurch v Cheltenham.
WOMEN'S EID. PREMIERS: Clifton Scottish Life v Doncaster (2.0): Hightown v
Slough (12.0): psavich v Sutton Coldfield (12.0): Fyffes Leicester v Olton Terraquest (12.30). First Dhistons Bradford v Wimbledon (12.0): Chelmsford Highway v
Sunderland Ashbrooke (2.15): Loughborough Students v Canterbury (2.30): Trojans v Adridge (1.30). Second Dhistons: Itampton-In-Arden v St. Albaris (12.30): Old
Loughtonlans v Ealing (1.0): Poynton v
Sherwood (12.15): Wolding v Brachnel (2.0).
WOMEN'S NORTH First Dhirlsions:
Chester v Winnington Park; Desside Rambler's v Blacktorn; Leyland Motors v
Shelfield; Liverpool v Don Valley.
WOMEN'S EAST PREMIER: Blueharts v

Sierrieti; Everpool v Don vawey.

WOREN'S EAST PREMIER: Blueharts v
lpswich; Bury St Edmunds v Ashford; Cam-bridge City v Sevenoaks; Harleston Magples v Letchworth.

Vale. Rediand v Bournemouth
MOMEN'S SOUTH First Division: City of
Portsmouth v Southampton, Dulwich v
West Witney, Horsham v Tulse Hill; Reading v Hendon, Winchesoer v Rover Cowley
MOMEN'S TRYSPORTS THREE COUNTIES First Divisions Tracknell v Rover Cowley: City of Oxford v Windsor; Farnham
Common v Newbury; Oxford Hawks v WokIngham; Oxford Univ, v Sonning, PhoenkRanelagh v West Winey; Reading v Milton
Keynes; Wycombe Rye v Henley.

WOMEN'S WEST PREMIER: Cheltenhan v Colwall: Eleter v Leominster: Elmouth v St Austell: Portishead Firebrands v Tauntol Vale. Redland v Bournemouth

BASKETBALL BUDMRESER LEAGUE: Derby v Worthing (7.30); London v Milton Keynes (7.30); Manchester v Greater London (7.10); Newcastle v Thames Valley (7.0). ICE HOCKEY

SERONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Bracknell Bees v Manchester Storm (6.0); Cardiff Devils v Newcastle Riverkings (7.0); Not-tingham Panthers v Sheffield Steelers (7.0).

OTHER SPORTS SQUASH: British Closed Championships

BADGUNTON: English National Cham-pionships (at Hayward Heath).

TOMORROW FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREVIEWSHIP SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Prantier DANSIAM SNAMFOCK ROUERS V VAL-terford [3.15]
PAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE Se-sior Challenge Cup Second rounds Cork City v Finn Harps [2.0] Derry City v Dundalk [3.15] SI Parrick's Athleric v DCD [3.15] St Mary's v Kilkenny City (2.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

(2.30)

MORTHERM PORD Premiership: Barrow v Whitehaven (2.0): Bakley v Oldham (3.0): Featherstone v Rochdale (3.30): Keighley v Doncaster (3.0): Leigh v York (3.0): Swinton v Hunsley (3.0): Leigh v York (3.0): Swinton v Hunslet (3.0): Widnes v Dewsbury (3.0): Workington v Hull K R (3.0): WOMEN'S ANDLAND PREMIER: Bedford v Luton: Belper v North Staffs; LoughborRUGBY UNION

ALLIED DUNBAR
PREMIERSHIP ONE
London Irish v Gloucester (3 0)
Wasps v Bath (2 30)
PREMIERSHIP TWO
Leeds v Bester (2,30)
ANGLO-WELSH PRIENDLIES
Cardiff v Bedford (3.0)
West Hartlepool v Swanses (3.0)
TENNINGTE V BESTER (18

TENNENT'S VELVET PREMIERSHIP Second Division: Dunder HSFP v Kirkaldy (3.0). Tird Division: Ayr v Preston Lodge (3.0); Berwick v Glenrothes (3.0).

HOCKEY

EHI. PREMIER: Beeston v Gulidrord (2.0); Brooklands v Feddington (2.0); Chriscok v Old Loughtonians (2.30); East Grinstead v Canterbury (2.0); Hounslow v Bounhaulle (2.0); Southgate v Reading (2.0) First Dielson Cheimsford v Harleston Magples (1.0); Donicaster v Indian Gymhania (2.0); Firebrands v Eastcoke (1.0); Hampstead is Westminster v Sr. Abans (12.30); Haware v Surbiton (2.0); Lewes v Hull (1.30); Loughborough Students v Isca (12.0), Oxford Hawks v Sheffield (2.0); Cofford Univ v Bromley (2.0), Stourport v Barford Tigers (1.30); Hophtonough Students v Stough (11.30); Hightons v Sherwood (2.0) (at North Stall's Univ).

WOMEN'S EMA CUP Fourth repnd: Buck-burn v Stough (11.30); Hightons v Sherwood (2.0) (at North Stall's Univ).

WOMEN'S SOUTH First Division: Madenhead v Dulmich, Nore Conley v City of Portsmouth: Southampton v Horsham, India

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Manchester Storm v Cardill Devils [5 0] Newcastle Riverkings v Nottingham Paintiers (6 30] Act Scottish Eagles v Sheffield Steelers [6 30] OTHER SPORTS

> THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

FULL TRANSFERS Free transfers or undisclosed fees unless stated

unless stated
Tim Shermood (midfielder) Blackburn
Rovers to Tottenham Hotsput (£4m); Stivio Marik (midfielder) Croats Zagreb to
Newcastle Utd (£3.5m); Arman
Gemalangsson (fornard) Bolton to Lecester Cty (£2m); Chris Marsden (midfielder)
Brimingham to Southampron (£600,000);
Tony £18s (forward) Bury to Stockport
(£250,000), David Smitch (midfielder) Oxford Utd to Szockport Soute Barnes (coalford Utd to Stockport: Scott Barnes (goal-keeper) Cambridge Utd to Leyton Orient

LOANS/TRIALS Alberto Mendez (forward) Askal Athens (Gr.; Christopher Wirels (forward) Arsenal to AEK Athens (Gr.; Alesdandro Pistone (defender) Newcastle to Veneza (it); Alan Maybury (defender) Leeds Uto to Ounfermine.

((ryou're the new england boss name the team for wembley?)) live webscussions nowww in progress



Premiership: Some observers thought £6m fee was too high but Spurs' fit-again forward feels he can repay investment

Ferdinand fired up for good times

IT SEEMS odd to suggest that his time spent as a steam cleaner, a van driver, and a nainter and decorator can be put to good use now as he batties to re-establish himself as one of the leading strikers in English football. But this is what Les Ferdinand, once one of the most feared footballers in the penalty box, uses to help in his fight to fulfil the promise Tottenham Hotspur believed in when they forked out £6m for him two and a half years ago.

Since that move from New castle United, where Ferdinand had intherto enjoyed much success first without, and then with Alan Shearer, his reputation as one of the most lethal finishers in the business has, together with his body, taken a bit of a pounding. Other strikers have either leapfrogged over him in the jostling for international selection or, in the case of a certain Michael Owen, emerged during his

A frustrated Ferdinand currently finds himself injury-free, which is a bonus judging by the past two seasons, but not a guaranteed starter in the Spurs first team. At the age of 32, some might feel his best days are now past him. The man in question, however, begs to differ.

"Maybe a few years ago that might have been the case, but players have been educated in terms of looking after themselves, and with the right diet. nutrition and exercise regime, I see no reason why I should not be playing at the highest level for a good four or five years," he explains, as we sit in one of the Tottenham dressing-rooms.

"Having the kind of background I've had - coming through relatively late, and with all those manual jobs beforehand - has helped me both as a player and a person. I look around the Tottenham squad today, and there are many sters here who only knov about football. They just don't his own ability remains high seem to be as hungry for it as I believe they should be.

"Some of them might be in for a shock later if things were to go wrong for them in their careers, like injuries, or loss of form. I've never forgotten my days driving a van, steam cleaning, or painting. The majority of my family still do those kind of jobs. I appreciate what



STAFFORD

two and a half years with my confidence intact.

The experience and memories I have from playing in successful sides - Newcastle. England, and to a lesser extent, QPR - have kept me going. I want to get back to those days. I don't want to have already reached my peak."

Unlike some players I could think of, Ferdinand's refreshing honesty means he does not hide behind any excuses when it comes to his Tottenham career to date. He is more than happy to hold his hands up. "The supporters know what I'm capable of because they've

'Kevin Keegan once described me at Newcastle as a monster who needed to be fed'

seen me produce the goods

"But they haven't seen me do it in a Tottenham shirt and they have every right to reserve their judgement on me until I succeed. People felt £6m was a lot of money for a player of my age, and at this moment you'd have to say, with my record at Spurs, it was too much. But I aim, of course, to change that."

He insists his confidence in but, like any striker, he needs to start scoring some goals. "Kevin Keegan once described me at Newcastle as a monster who needed to be fed. David Ginola and Keith Gillespie on the wings, and Peter Beardsley behind me used to do the feeding.

"Tottenham have obviously struggled in the past two seasons, and any striker will tell I have. I've been lucky, and it's you he needs good service in

chances go begging, and heard commentators say: 'If Les Ferdinand had been playing he would have had a field day'. Then 1 get a chance to play and nothing seems to come my

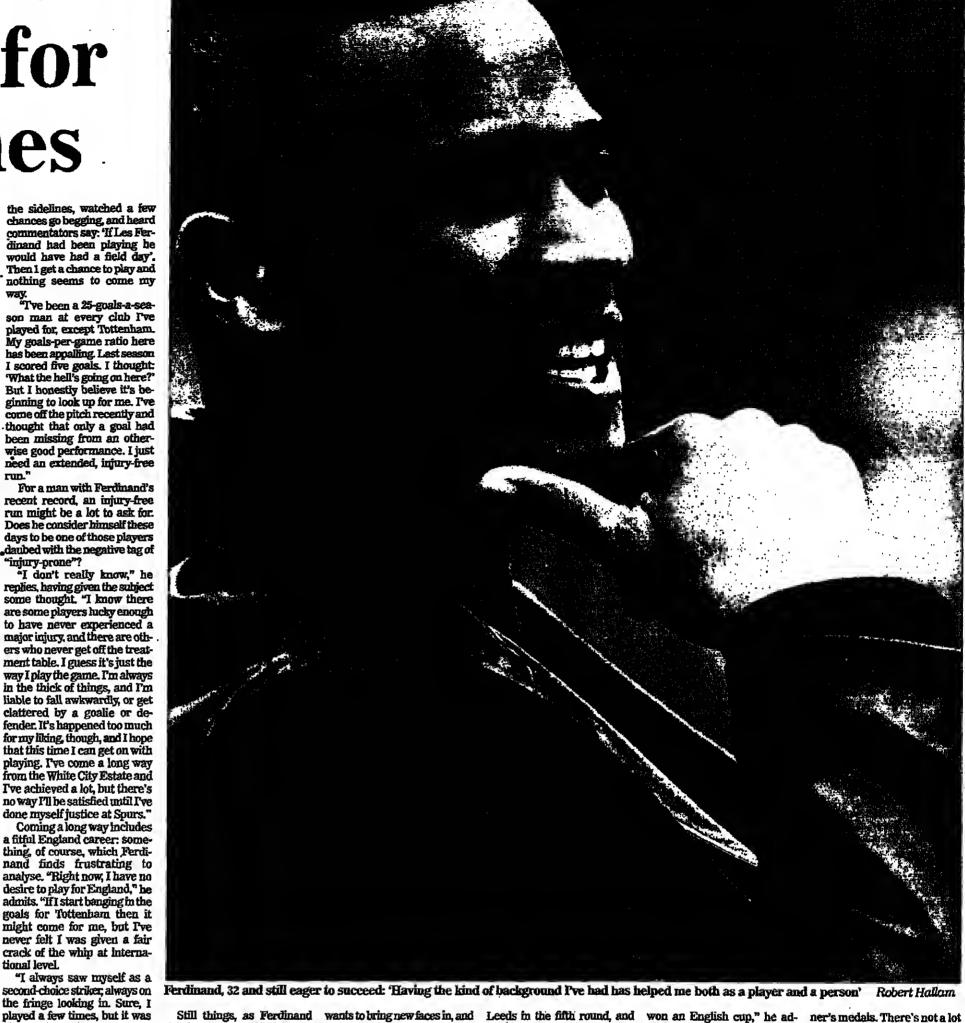
"Tve been a 25-goals-a-season man at every club I've layed for, except Tottenham. My goals-per-game ratio here has been appalling. Last season I scored five goals. I thought: What the hell's going on here?" But I honestly believe it's beginning to look up for me. I've come off the pitch recently and thought that only a goal had been missing from an otherwise good performance. I just need an extended, injury-free

For a man with Ferdinand's recent record, an injury-free run might be a lot to ask for. Does he consider himself these days to be one of those players daubed with the negative tag of injury-prone"?

"I don't really know," he replies, having given the subject some thought. "I know there are some players lucky enough to have never experienced a major injury, and there are others who never get off the treatment table. I guess it's just the way I play the game. I'm always in the thick of things, and I'm liable to fall awkwardly, or get clattered by a goalie or defender. It's happened too much for my liking, though, and I hope that this time I can get on with playing. I've come a long way from the White City Estate and Tve achieved a lot, but there's no way I'll be satisfied until I've done myself justice at Spurs."

Coming a long way includes a fitful England career: something, of course, which Ferdinand finds frustrating to analyse. "Right now, I have no desire to play for England," he admits. "If I start banging in the goals for Tottenham then it might come for me, but I'v never felt I was given a fair crack of the whip at interna-

"I always saw myself as a the fringe looking in. Sure, I played a few times, but it was almost always because someof a run under Graham Taylor hut, other than that, Tve been in and out. Terry Venables didn't believe a Shearer-Ferdinand



one else was injured. I had a bit At Tottenham, George Graham ones he wants to replace. We've where they are a victory at when they won the Torkish for the club. "It's looking like George will be part of the fixtures and fittings here for quite because of this that I've been order to score goals. It's been partnership could work. Keegan obviously did at Newcastle." some time," is how Ferdinand obviously did at Newcastle." puts it. "All the players know he the FA Cup, where Spurs visit bley for any club, and never proud. But there are no win-

seems to be turning the corner endured the bad times, so we ones we know are not far away." Like, for example, a cup win at Wembley. This is possible in

ford on 19 December, since

over the horizon and they have

was the 7-1 slaughter of

Southampton.

scored a goal.

Wimbledon away from reaching want to play a part in the good the final. Incredibly, a semifinal is as far as Ferdinand has ever ventured

rightly accepts, could be worse. we're hoping we're not the also in the Worthington Cup, mits. "I played for Besiktas cup, but it's not quite the same, is it? My trophy cabinet contains a few England caps and the 1996 PFA Player of the "Tve never played at Wem- Year award, of which I am very

I'd like to put that straight while I still have the time."

Maybe his chance will come this year. Tottenham's fortunes are beginning to look up under

United wary of Big Ron Effect O'Callaghan to lead

YOU DO not need to be a Liver- BY GUY HODGSON pool supporter to feel the weight of late goals. Chelsea, Aston Villa and Arsenal have also spent the week ruing Dwight Yorke's winner at Charlton last Sunday that marked a wind change in

That goal pushed Manchester United to the top for the first time this season apart from the stagger in matches which gave their an advantage for a day. A further victory over Derby in midweek pushed them four points clear and rivals who have spent weeks looking over their shoulders for the anticipated charge from Old Trafford have had to alter their line of vision

Today United, who are bidding for their fifth title in seven years, travel to Nottingham For est for a fixture between top and bottom that would have looked a foregone conclusion a matter of weeks ago.

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Since the arrival of Ron Atkinson at the City Ground there has been a perceptible lightening of mood, however, and as a former United manager be likes nothing better than putting one over his former employers. As he did last season, when his Sheffield Wednesday side halted what had, until then, seemed to be an unstoppable title bandwagon.

The Big Ron Effect secured only Forest's second win of the season at Everton last Saturday and despite the recent yo-yo record at the City Ground, United have failed to win there in their last four visits.

"There's definitely a positive attitude to a very difficult fixture," Dave Beasant, Forest's

goalkeeper, said. "It was a lively dressing-room after we beat Everton. You can get used to that losing feeling and I think a few players were thinking on Sunday "This is much better than I've been feeling for the past few months. Let's keep it

Alex Ferguson, named manager of the month yesterday at the same time Yorke was picked as player for January, is wary. "You don't get easy games anywhere, and we are expecting a tough match. They have a new body thinking they can win the

Today is unusual if not unique in that the Premiership's top to recover their winning touch after losing last weekend.

Chelsea, whose defeat at Arsenal last Saturday marked the end of a 22-match unbeaten League run, meet a Southampton team whose status as sacrificial lambs had a rapid rewrite when they defeated Leeds com-

Villa, meanwhile, have acquired a ragged edge of late, losing to Second Division Fulham in the FA Cup and to New-

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

World Cup. You know what castle last week Much more of this and John Gregory's image, so pristine it could advertise washing powder, will acquire its four all play on a Saturday and first grubby edge. Their oppo-Chelsea and Villa will be anxious nents are Blackburn, who scored nine goals without reply in the two fixtures between the

clubs last season.

With due respect to all the above, the man on whom most attention will focus, however, is Paolo Di Canio. The irascible Italian makes his home debut for West Ham today and with glorious timing the opponents are fourth-placed Arsenal, the very team who pushed him over the limit when he laid hands on referee Paul Alcock in September.

Ron Atkinson have all said he's a good signing, so who is it who thinks he isn't? The Press? Well there's no problem is there? I know be's a great player" Alcock, incidentally, makes his return to the Premiership for the first time since the Di Canio shove and, of course, he has got a low-key match with little at stake to ease him in: Forest versus United. Middlesbrough have no problems pinpointing their high tide mark, a 3-2 win at Old Traf-

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Celtic into new era Di Canio has promised not to go volcanic this time, although there was more than one meaning to his attempt to play the meeting down. "I made my mis-CELTIC YESTERDAY unveiled take against Arsenal," he said.

the Glasgow businessman "but it could have been against Frank O'Callaghan as the man any other team." Anyone who they hope will lead the club has managed him will vouch for away from its current problems and into a new era of success. Harry Redknapp is the new man with the privilege and he be-O'Callaghan has been earmarked by the Glasgow club as lieves that only a lack of match the successor to the present fitness will prevent Di Canio club chief executive and maproving his doubters wrong. "People who know the game jority shareholder, Fergus Mc-Cann, who will sever his don't think he's a bad signing," connections with Celtic in the the West Ham manager said. next few months:

"Andy Gray, Kevin Keegan and O'Callaghan was due to become a director of the club last night, and will assume the position of non-executive chairman-elect of the Celtic plc board when McCann departs. McCann has said he will sell his shares at the end of the sea when he wants a broad fan base to take up the holdings."

installation O'Callaghan on the board shows that McCann is on course to fulfil his vision of how the club will run once he is gone, which is bad news for the consortium headed by Kenny when the sea has disappeared Daiglish and the Simple Minds singer, Jim Kerr. The consorcollected just two points from tium's initial proposals have their last 15. Which is not the already been rejected and with best portent to carry to Liverno formal meeting having taken pool, whose last game at Anfield place between the parties, Mc-Cann seems intent on bowing out in the manner of his choice.

Everton will hope their McCann has effectively time has come tomorrow given O'Callaghan a fraction of away to Derby because they the role he currently holds risk being sucked into the relhimself, with a new chief execegation positions if it has not. utive, likely to have a more It is now 5hr 29min since they direct footballing remit, still to

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL

BY SIMON BUCKLAND According to McCann, O'Callaghan, who is 59, was headhunted by Celtic's selection committee and once proposed as the main candidate. the board unanimously agreed his appointment. O'Callaghan was educated at

St Aloysius College, where he is vice-chairman of the board of governors, and huilt a successful business career after graduating from Glasgow University. He was the financial controller of Stakis plc and then the company's financial director for 16 years until 1989. while in the last decade he has been guiding a number of companies. Needless to say, he is also a lifelong Celtic supporter.

McCann enthused: "I have no doubt Frank's abilities and experience in heading public companies and management within the leisure industry will be of great value in leading the board to continued growth and

The Celtic managing director pointed to the prioritising of the playing side at Parkhead as the reason for profits being down despite increased turnover. The Glasgow club yesterday announced its interim results revealing that turnover was up 24.5 per cent over the same period a year earlier to a figure of £19.3m thanks to 53,000 season ticket sales. The rise was facilitated

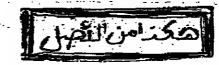
by the completion of Celtic Park to a 60,400 capacity, making it the largest club ground in Britain, with an av-

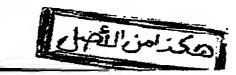
erage attendance of 59,024. Despite that profits fell by £5.5m from last year due to the signings of of Vidar Riseth, Johan Mjaliby, Lubomir Moravcik and Mark Viduka, with only Malky Mackay, who went to Norwich for a nominal sum, bringing in a fee. McCann admitted the failure to reach the European Champions' League followed by an early Uefa Cup exit was "disappointing", but stressed there were now signs of "a stronger first-team squad".

Celtic will welcome back Jackie McNamara to the fold after a recent knee problem for the Premier League trip to Hearts today, but Craig Burley (groin) and Marc Rieper (toe) remain among the long-term in-

Hearts should welcome back the injured trio of Stefano Salvatori, French goalkeeper Gilles Rousset and Steve Fulton for the trip to Celtic, though defender Gary Locke remains a major doubt.

Meanwhile, Rangers will be hoping to extend their lead at the top when they travel to Dunfermline tomorrow. The leaders have received a boost with the news that Colin Hendry will return to action by the end of the month. The centre-back has responded well to treatment on a groin problem and manager Dick Advocaat estimates the player will return within weeks.





Weekend guide to the Premiership



Nottm Forest v Man United

Last season: No fixture

ALEX FERGUSON (right) will try to ignore BY PAUL STEVENSON speculation over his future as his table-topping side travel east to take on the table-propping Forest, who will be trying to do the unlikely and secure a second consecutive win

under Ron Atkinson (left). The Manchester United manager has een linked with the England post vacated by Glenn Hoddle this week, but will be focusing all his attention on the Premiership. Ferguson believes his team will be in for a hard game against Atkinson's men following Forest's victory - their first win for 19 matches - at fellow relegation candidates Everton last Saturday, "You don't get easy games anywhere, and we are expecting a tough match," Ferguson said yesterday.

"Forest have a new manager in Big Ron, and he will have everybody thinking they can win the World Cup. You know what Ron's like, but we'll be ready for it." Ferguson rejected suggestions that statistics point to an easy victory for his side. "It doesn't really matter much at this stage of the season, it is what you end up with that is important. It is important to take something from every game and that is what we are trying to do."

Current form atill suggests that the three points will be going to Old Trafford, and history also points to the visitors, who have not lost any of their four Premiership meetings at the City Ground.

This game is given extra significance as Atkinson is a former United manager, and was succeeded by Ferguson 12 years ago. A win for United will see them move on to 50 points, but they will remain top of the table regardless of the outcome tomorrow.

Forest will move off the bottom, at least under Monday, if they can upset the form book. However, there are doubts about England winger Steve Stone (thigh), Pierre Van Hooijdonk (ribs) and on-loan Norwegian Stale Stensaas (thigh).

For United, David Beckham and Andy Cole are set to start after being rested in the 1-0 win over Derby on Wednesday night. Henning Berg, who missed the game with a knee injury, should also be available.

However Ryan Giggs will not be available because of a hamstring injury which restricted him to just 10 minutes against Derby. Ferguson's team go into this game groaning under the weight of recent plaudits; Dwight Yorke won the Player of the Month for January, and Ferguson himself has been named Manager of the Month. New Old Trafford No 2, Steve McClaren is likely to be in the dug-out for the first time today. MANCHESTER UNITED (from) Schmeichel, G Neville Johnsen, Stam, Invin, Beckham, Keane, Butt, Stomovisi Cole, Yorke, Scholes, Solksjaer, P Neville, May, Brown, Berg



Aston Villa v Blackburn

THE BLACKBURN striker Chris Sutton could make a timely return to Premiership action today, given the departure of Glenn Hoddle as England manager. Having fallen out with Hoddle over his repeated selection for the B team, Sutton seemingly now has the chance to rebuild his international career. However, as it will be Sutton's first appearance for over two months, he may have to settle for a place on the bench. Kevin Gallacher faces another month out with a calf injury, Keith Gillespie (ankle) and Nathan Blake (neck) are also injured, while Jeff Keona and Stéphane Henchoz are both suspended. Darren Peacock could be recalled.

Aston Villa are missing six players, with Lee Hendrie banned, Stan Collymore still undergoing counselling and central defender Ugo Ehiogu suffering from a fractured eye socket. Midfielders Alan Thompson and Mark Draper are recovering from ankle injuries and goalkeeper Mark Bosnich is still battling to shake off a shoulder problem. There is good news for Villa, though, with Dion Dublin available again after injury. Simon Grayson could make a rare appearance in midfield.

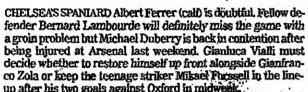
ASTON VILLA (from): Oakes, Watson, Scimera, Southgate, Barry, Wright, Taylor, Merson, Grayson, Dublin, Joachim, Hughes, Ferraresi, Vassell, Lee, Rachel

Referee: K Burge (fonypandy).



Chelsea v Southampton

Last season: 4-2



up after his two goals against Oxford in midweek.

Southampton's new signing. Chris Marsden, is likely to make his debut. Marsden, who completed his £305,000 fnove from Birmingham at the start of the week is in contention as Malt Le Tissier is expected to be out for a month after tearing a hamstring during the 3-0 win against Leeds last week. Mark Hughes (heel) is expected to recover in time to face his old side, and winger Stuart Ripley should be fit after a calf problem. Defender Scott Marshall is out with a stomach bug. Defender Richard Dryden is out for three weeks with an ankle injury, Francis Benali is still two weeks away from returning from a broken arm, and David Hirst and John Beresford are out with long-term knee injuries.

CHELSEA (from): De Goey, Hitchicek, Lebocuf, Babayaro, Desallly, Le Saux, Ferrer, Ouberry, Myers, Pettescu, Di Matteo, Wise, Goldback, Newton, Nicholis, Morns, Terry, Pertossi, Vialli, Zoia, Forssell
SOUTHANNPTON (Irom!: Jones, Hiley, Dodd, Lundekvam, Colleter, Kachloul, Marshan, M. Hughes, Oakey, Beattle, Ostenstad, Ripley, Monk, Bridge, Howells, Warner, Stensgaard.



Leeds v **Newcastle United**

Last season: 4-1

BOTH SIDES enter today's match with injury problems affecting their line-ups. The Leeds manager, David O'Leary, is denied the services of Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink through suspension, and Stephen McPhail and Bruno Ribeiro with injury, who are this week's most notable absentees from a first-team squad decimated by injury in recent months. Jimmy's fellow Dutchman, Clyde Wijnhard, could earn a rare start up front alongside the 18-year-old Alan Smith, while new signing Willem Korsten could also appear in an attacking role.

Newcastle must do without the services of the England captain, Alan Shearer, who is suspended for the first time in his career. Also missing for the same reason is Nikos Dabizas, and the new French defender Didier Domi is unlikely to play because of a hamstring injury. Rob Lee, who could have played his last match for the Magpies after speculation linking him with a move back to London, has Achilles tendon trouble, but Laurent Charvet, hdy Griffin and on-loan Metz striker Louis Saha are all in the squad after recovering from knocks.

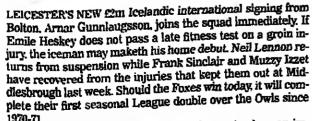
LEEDS UNITED from! Martyn, Haaland, Radebe, Wetherall, Korsten, Wijnhard, Ribein, Bowyer, Hopkin, Granville, Holle, Kewell, Harte, Woodgate, Jackson, Smith, Ribein, Bowyer, Hopkin, Granville, Holle, Kewell, Harte, Woodgate, Jackson, Smith, NEWCASTLE UNITED (from); Gwen, Harper, Barton, Griffin, Charvet, Howle, Hugh-es, Hamans, Speed, Glass, Solano, Brady, Geordiadis, Ketsbaia, Andersson, Sana, Descending Speed, Glass, Solano, Brady, Geordiadis, Ketsbaia, Andersson, Sana, earce, Dalglish.

gilsit. ms: Loeds: Hasselbaink. Nowcastle: Shearct. Dabalas Referee: U Rennie (Sheffield)



Leicester V Sheff Wed

Last season: 1-1



Sheffield Wednesday's results have begun to show an imevement in recent weeks, and their manager, Danny Wilson, has virtually a full squad to choose from for today's trip down the M1. With the exception of two long-term absentees with kneeinjuries, Earl Barrett and Ian Nolan, Wilson has no further problems, with midfielder Danny Sonner available again. Wednesday are still hoping to have their goalkeeper Pavel Straiger's threematch ban, for his sending off against Derby last week, commuted to one game. He plays for the last time before suspension today. LEICESTER CITY (from): Keller, Arphexad, Guspy, Sinclair, Walsh, Elhatt, Ullathorne, Erggart, Kaamsık, Empey, Zugorakis, Savage, Campbell, Parker, Izzet, Lennon, Hes-icy, Cottee, Wilson, Fenton, Gunnlaugsson.

SHEFFRELD WEDNESDAY (from): Smicek, Atherton, Jonk, Newsome, Walker, Carbone, Booth, Sanetti, Cobian, Humphreys, Briscoe, Stefanonc, Oakes, Hinchcliffe, Emerson, Rudi, Alexandersson, Sonner, Morrison, Pressman.

...And statistics

Is it worth the wait for goals?

CHELSEA, MORE than anyone, know all about "the game of two halves", not least the dying minutes of the second period. Gianluca Via))i's players have scored 11 times this season in the last 15 minutes. On four occasions their last goal has been bagged in the 90th minute and on a further six occasions it has come in the last 10 minutes. Tore Andre Flo, with five goals in the last 15 minutes of games, is the Blues' 'last gasp' master, Such 'last gaspism' has added 14 points to Chelsea's season.

Manchester United's Dwight Yorke Is not a bad second-half stayer himself. it was an 89th-minute Yorke header

Second

half

Goals worth waiting for

The 1998-99 season

half

120

that took Manchester United back to the summit against Charlton last weekend and another Yorke secondhalf strike on Wednesday against Derby that stretched their lead to four points. Yorke's strength at the start is telling too - he's scored four times this season in the opening 15

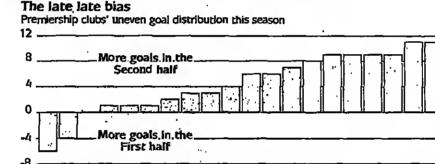
minutes of League games. Of the 566 goals scored in the top flight this season, 238 have come in the first 45 minutes and 328 (a rather significant 90 more) have come after half-time.

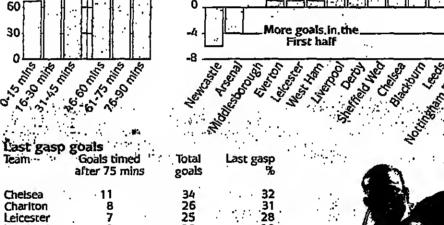
Nearly twice as many goals are timed in the last 15 minutes of a game as the first 15 and, even allowing for time added on, the

build-up in goal scoring remains significant.
Alex Ferguson's side have now

scored 31 of their 51 goals in the second half. Newcastle and Arsenal score more of their goals in the first half. It should have been no surprise to the Gunners' fans that the crucial Dennis Bergkamp goal against Chelsea last weekend came as early as the 32nd minute, Chelsea fans might well have been surprised that their team, on this occasion, failed to manage a last gasp strike. At the other end of the game it's Newcastle who lead the way with early goals - a

quarter of theirs have come in the





Wimbledon 28 Southampton 22 22 36 32 28 Middlesbrough 21 21 20 20 Newcastle Arsenal Liverpool Aston Villa 20 Man Utd 18 Blackburn Tottenham West Ham 16 Nottm Forest Coventry 13

566 121. Total. Early strikes Goals timed Total in first 15 mins Newcastle Coventry Arsenal Sheff Wed Aston Vi)la 22 23 Blackburn Southampton Charlton Tottenham Wimbledon

19

Chelsea's late eleven 21/9/98 Blackburn 3 26/9/98 Chelsea 17/10/98 Cheisea 8/11/98 West Ham 1 21/11/98 Leicester 2 9/12/98 Chelsea 16/12/98 Man Utd 19/12/98 Chelsea Chelsea 16/12/99 (Goals in first 15

Tottenham 0 Coventry minutes of League gomes) Dwight Yorke 4 John Hartson Alan Shearer

(Di Matteo 90) Strikers who start well Strikers who 'finish' well (Goals in final 15 mins of League gomes)
Tore Andre Flo Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink Tony Cottee Marcus Gayle Clive Mendonca

(Flo 82 & 86)

(Babayaro 76)

(Poyet 80. Flo 90)

(Zola 82)

(Zola 90)

(Flo 90)

(Flo 83)

(Poyet 88)

Chelsca

Chariton

Chelsea

Chelsea

Aston Villa

Middlesbro' 0

Manchester United's

Dwight Yorke, who not

to finish with a

flourish too

well, but knows how

only starts a game

TOMORROW 4PM **Derby County v Everton** Last season: 3-1



six goals in their last 10 home matches.

The Merseysiders have only lost twice

And the second s

Liverpool

Leicester

Leeds

Everton

Total

Middlesbrough

Nottm Forest

Statistics: Brian Sears / Nick Harris

teri and Marco Materazzi for the trip to DERBY'S JAMAICAN striker Deon Burton could be recalled against Everton tomorrow. Pride Park. Walter Smith will also be Burton had a positive effect when he replaced without striker Michael Branch, and the Kevin Harper at Old Trafford on Wednesday and, with Dean Sturridge doubtful with a hamstring strain, could partner Paulo Wanchope up front. The Rams' Italian duo Stefano Eranio and Francesco Baiano could also be recalled by manager Jim Smith. The home side will be looking to improve upon a poor recent record of having scored only

former Derby defender, Craig Short who are both out through injury. John Collins, Alex Cleland and Slaven Bilic remain long-term absentees. Everton have gone six League games without a victory, scoring just two goals. They have gone five hours and 29 minutes without a goal, but if there is any grain of hope to grasp as they travel tomorrow it is that they have found the net four times in their last seven Prein their last 12 visits to Derby, but will be miership away matches, which is a rate without the suspended Danny Cadamar- above their overall average this season.

They need a rapid improvement to avoid yet another fight against relegation and manager Smith is expected to put Don Hutchison up front with 18-year-old England Youth striker Francis Jeffers on the bench. Olivier Dacourt and Ibrahima Bakayoko are expected to start after being named as substitutes for last week's 1-0

home defeat by Nottingham Forest.

DERSY COUNTE Hout, Prior, Carbonan, Stimar, Laursen,
Carsley, Powell Bohhren, Dorigo, Burton, Wanchope,
Balano, Eranio, Harper, Hunt, Knight, Schnoor, Sturndge,
Elliott.

MUSERTONE, Myhre, Ward, Unsworth, Watson, Dunne, Balt,
Grant, Dacourt, Hurchison, Barmby, Oster, Bakayoko,
Jeffers, Jevons, Milligan, Simonsen.



Liverpool v Middlesbrough

Last season; No fixture

STEVE McMANAMAN will get a rare chance to show the red faithful wby he is worth the £14m Real Madrid will pay him to descrt them when he starts only his second game for Liverpool since the beginning of November. Patrik Berger's hamstring injury allows manager Gérard Houllier to reinstate fit-again McManaman into his midfield without changing his 5-3-2 formation. Jamie Redknapp is expected to have recovered from a slight groin strain. and Jamie Carragher will return after a one-match ban. Rigobert Song, who played in the reserves on Tuesday along with Mc-Marnaman, will probably have to wait for his full Anfield debut. He started last week's 2-1 defeat at Coventry, but is still not con-

Middlesbrough's striker Hamilton Ricard is doubtful through injury. The Colombian damaged an ankle during last weekend's 0-0 draw with Leicester at the Riverside Stadium, and will be replaced by the Dane Mikkel Beck if he fails a late fitness test. Manager Bryan Robson has no other injury worries as Boro seek their rages any an incussou has no other injury worries as Boro seek their first League win at Anfield since a 2-0 victory in March 1976, Liverpool (from): James, Heggem, Carragher, Staunton, Babb, Matteo, Narlness, Bjomebye, McMamanan, Ince, Redknapp, Gerrard, Owen, Fowler, Riedle, Song, Thompson, Friedel, Middlesse, Bersold, Fleming, Festa, Cooper, Vickers, Pallster, Gordon, Stamp, Mustoe, Maddison, Gascoigne, Townsend, Beck, Ricard, Deane, Moore,

sidered fully match fit by Houllier.



Tottenham v Coventry



DAVID GINOLA has been named in a 19-man Tottenham squad but manager George Graham may decide it is too soon to recall the French maestro after a hamstring injury. Ginola missed last Saturday's 1-1 draw at Blackburn through suspension and was not fit enough to reclaim his place in midweek against Wimbledon in the FA Cup, having limped off against the same opposition after an hour a week earlier. He is back in training and Graham insists that the injury is not as bad as first suspected, but Andy Sinton looks likely to retain the left-wing role - with Ginola being saved for next Saturday's FA cup tie at Leeds. Graham has increased his midfield options with Tim Sherwood's £4m arrival but the former Blackburn captain has to challenge either Allan Nielsen - who scored twice in midweek - or Steffen Freund for a place. It is more likely he will start on the bench.

Coventry have midfielder George Boateng suspended for the match at Tottenham, along with full-back David Burrows. Paul Telfer steps into the breach after his one-match ban. Marc Edworthy is expected to take over from Burrows at left-back.
TOTIENHAM HOTSPUR (from): Walter, Carr, Vega, Campbell, Edinburgh, Yeung, Few, Tarkco, Anderton, Freund, Sherwood, Calderwood, Nielsen, Sinton, Ginola, Ferdinand, Armstrong, Iversen, Baardsen (gk).

COVENTRY CITY (from): Hedman, Nilsson, Shaw, Williams, Edworthy, Telfer, McAllster, Soltvedt, Froggett, Whelan, Huckerby, Clement, Breen, Gloacthin, Aloisi, P. Hall, Ogrizović (gk), Starpenistona: Coventry: Boareng, Burrows.



West Ham v Arsenal



IAN WRIGHT will not play for West Ham against his old club as he is still recovering from a knee operation. Eyal Berkovic and Samassi Abou have both recovered from illness while Ian Pearce and Trevor Sinclair are both eligible after suspension. Steve Lomas and Stan Lazaridis have both had flu and will not figure. Still on the injured list are Richard Hall, Marc Keller and Javier Margas, who is still in Chile receiving treatment.

Arsenal's Patrick Vieira returns from suspension and will replace Remi Garde. Nigerian striker Nwankwo Kanu, signed from Internazionale three weeks ago, will not arrive in the country until today and does not figure in Arsene Wenger's plans. Dennis Bergkamp and Nicolas Anelka will again spearhead the Gunners attack despite an impressive substitute appearance by another new French signing, Kaba Diawara, in last Sunday's win over Chelsea. Diawara will be on the bench again. Steve Bould (knee), Gilles Grimandi (ankle) and Fredrik Ljungberg (ankle) are being given another week to fully recover from their injuries. Portuguese forward Luis Boa Morte is still out after a cartilage operation last month.

Wrest HAM (from): Histop, Breacker, Dicks, Ruddock, Sintlair, Kitson, D. Canio, Ferdinand, Moncue, Lampard, Pearce, Abou, Hodges, Foe, Berkovc, Omoyami, Minto, Cole.

ARSSENAL (from): Seaman; Dixon, Keown, Adams, Winterburn, Parlour, Viera, Petr, Overmars Bergkamp, Anelka, Garde, Hughes, Diawara, Upson, Vivos, Manninger (gk).

Suspepsions: West Hams Pearce, Sinclair.

MONDAY 8PM



Charlton v Wimbledon Last season: No fixture



CHARLTON HAVE taken just three points from their last 13 Premiership matches and have failed to keep a clean sheet in their last 11. Last Sunday, Manchester United looked like being held to a draw before Dwight Yorke scored a last-minute winner, which just goes to show that Alan Curbishley's side can defend like demons for 89 minutes but it will all be for nothing if they succumb at the death. While The Addicks will take heart in the knowledge that Wimbledon have not scored a goal in more than three hours of football, they themselves have never scored more than one goal in any League game against the Dons.

Joe Kinnear's side are seventh despite their recent poverty in front of goal, and with one route into Europe having been closed by their 3-0 defeat at Tottenham in the FA Cup, the Dons will redouble their efforts to take at least a Uefa Cup place through the Premiership runners-up spots. Record signing John Hartson has been given a three-match ban for the training ground incident with Eval Berkovic while at West Ham, but the Welshman is available for selection for this match.

SOUADS: to be announced.
Suspensions: Mimbledon: Hughes

Referee: O Elleray.

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ARSENAL'S FRENCH SOURCE P22 BORN-AGAIN FERDINAND P30

Five Nations' Championship: Lansdowne Road prepares for France side in search of third successive Grand St

Ireland stoke fires of self-belie

SWAMPED BY their own past BY CHRIS HEWETT and saturated in memory, the Irish love nothing better than a historical date or two to stoke the fires of debate. Here, then, are some dates they might like to consider as they stroll, hale and hearty and full of confidence, towards Lansdowne Road this afternoon.

Ireland's 15 good men and true last won a Grand Slam in 1948 and claimed their most recent Five Nations title and Triple Crown a small matter of 14 years ago. They have not beaten the French since 1983, have not avoided defeat by them since 1985 and have lost their last 10 opening Championship matches. Reasons to be cheerful? On second thoughts, forget the rugby and crack on with the drinking.

If there is an unmistakable crackle of optimism in Dublin this weekend, it has no obvious basis in fact or logic. As Donal Lenihan, who packed down alongside Moss Keane and Willie Duggan and Fergus Slattery on that famous afternoon in '83, said yesterday: "People seem to forget that France are going for their third successive Slam. That, in itself, will make them desperately hard to beat." As a player, Donal would have

K Maggs.

G Dempsey

in Dublin

manager, it was in his interests to rein in the wilder expectations rather than excite them. Ulster's tearfully romantic European Cup victory last weekend certainly raised Irish

spirits in advance of this last Five Nations jamboree, but their successful strangulation of a less than complete and wholly off-colour Colomiers side was not really so much to write home about. Similar tactics this afternoon – welly it up in the air, run like the clappers

INSIDE

Chris Hewett on the art of Allan Bateman Scotland-Wales preview

Burritz

Stade Français

Stade Français

_Perpignan, capt

Beyles-Bondeau

Kick-off: 215 (BBC1)

.Toulouse

and belt the first Frenchman who goes within a country kilometre of the descending ball might rally the 49,000 crowd for 20 minutes or so, but would ultimately condemn Paddy Johns' side to a 14th consecutive defeat at the hands of the urbane Tricolores.

Mick Doyle, that garrulous man of Blackrock (not to mention University College Dublin been thumping the tub with the and Cambridge) could be heard best of them. Now, as team yesterday extolling the virtues

IRELAND v FRANCE

at Lansdowne Road

andoninsh IS E Ntamaci

Dungannon I3 R Dourthe...

Bath 12 F Comb

Terenure ti T Lombard Dungannon 10 T Castaigne

...Young Munster | C Califar

.Harlequins 2 R Ibanez.

...St Mary's Col 8 T Lievren

Saracens 3 F Tournaire

C McGuinness....St Mary's Col 9 P Carbonn

Saracens, capt

Referee: P Marshall (Australia)

London Insh 14 P Bernat-Salles...

of the Irish tight five, in which Johns himself acts as the meanest and most ruthless of enforcers. "You simply can't fault our forwards," insisted Doyle. "In the last five years, they competed equally and magnificently with every pack in the world."

Very true. They will do so today, too; Keith Wood and Paul Wallace are world-class operators, as is Jeremy Davidson. It may well be that they will give the French a serious goingover in the darkened recesses especially as Christian Califano and Fabien Pelous are short of match hardness and Franck Tournaire is still liable to blow a gasket at the first sight of a clenched fist. But the Irish will require more than an edge at scrum and line-out to break the habit of an entire generation and take their Grand Slam ambitions into a second international weekend.

They will need to command the tackle area and they will need to kick their goals. Sadly, they may do neither. Andy Ward's knee injury deprives them of their warrior king, their Slattery-style, bust-a-gut breakaway flanker whose ballwinning ability was so much in evidence for Ulster last weekend. Dion O'Cuinneaguin is quick and capable, but he will struggle to ruffle Olivier Magne's pristine feathers to quite the same degree.

As for the kicking, Ireland will have only themselves to blame if David Humphreys' occasion marksmanship lets them down. They should, quite clearly, have picked the ultra-dependable Niall Woods for the senior side rather than the A team; not only would be have popped over the three-pointers in his sleep, but be would have joined Conor O'Shea and Justin Bisbop in bringing London Irisb's exhilarating threepronged attacking partnership to bear on a French side unfashirted three-quarters running with the ball rather than shoeing the leather off it.

The likelihood must be that Magne, Philippe Benetton and



Ireland's Keith Wood is tackled by Kevin Maggs and Girvan Dempsey during training for today's game against France

miliar with the sight of emerald- Lievremont will govern the whose youthful grin manages to victory over Fiji in Suva last seem fair, somehow. loose exchanges and allow make Arwel Thomas look like June. Last weekend the stand-Philippe Carbonneau and Old Father Time, had been off, fully recovered from his to the title 14 years ago - their

When Dovle coached Ireland

the calmiy creative Thomas cheeky chappie from Castres swagger to his country's Test grief in Genoa. It does not some advice from o professional nutritionist. Today, they have psychologists, physiotherapists Thomas Castaignede to or- conspicuous by his absence shoulder surgery, swanned 15-15 draw with France denied well as dielicians. Will the army gamise things to the French since he contributed 14 points back into the reckoning by giv- them a Slam - his players of support staff help them go one benefit. Castaignede, the and a mountain of instinctive ing Italy an equal amount of chipped in £25 apiece to buy in better than in 85? Probably not

THE SATURDAY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

Puritan finds Paris and Nice disreputable (9) Thought facing should be removed - had

crack? (4) Sign of decay, losing fragment of canine (5) 11 Forerunner of the "Big

Bang" (9)
12 Deal in automobiles (7) 13 These could put manuequins in the shade (7)

 14 Sinful, led astray, fellow's greedy (4-9)
 17 A bookmaker excluding a backing system? (8-5) Bone forming rigid Greek character's

back (7) Wavering light produced by good painter, it's said (7) Great amount of wa

ter? Valid, maybe, for 25 Trendy big house of a S. American ruler (5) 26 File play void of

27 Pool, note, surrounded

DOWN

Dreamer's history captivating bospital worker (3) Take morning off in the country from

olant (5) Scarcely an alternative for this (14) Got enrolled, losing little time (7) 5 Bent, twisted everyone

in game (7) Modelled one clear Eastern fabric (9) 8 Don's imbued with acceptable restraint (6)
9 Indolent one participating - without choice, reportedly (14)

15 Person with an eye for communications? (3-6) 16 Separate and set out,

spread (8) 18 Almost shy, about to criticise instruments (7)

19 Disregard Celt's odd name, say, at first (7) 20 Wine around Italy beginning to spoil in ex-isting state (2,2,2) 23 Drink, second drink (5)

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword. P.O. Box 4018, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E145BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: Filigion, West Bridgiord; R. Mitchell, Southampton; M. Nuttall, Stockport; P. Wood, Tredegar, J. Kay, Birlsenhead.

Wenger's England advice

ARSENAL'S double-winning manager, Arsène Wenger, last night ruled himself out of contention for the England job and advised the Football Association to pick a home-grown man to take over the national team

from Glenn Hoddle. His comments were in direct contrast to those of David Sheepshanks, a leading member of the FA committee who will select the new man. Sheepshanks yesterday refused to rule out a foreign coach for the job, saying that England would go for the best person available.

Meanwhile Wenger, the overseas manager with the most successful record in England. said he believes the Football Association's next choice to pick up what many regard as a poisoned chalice, must be experienced, aged over 50 - and an Englishman.

"I personally think England must have an English manager because it is a big country with a big passion for football

FOOTBALL

BY BILL PIERCE and people identify better with

a guy from their own country. For me it would be difficult to explain to somebody why a country of 50 million people cannot find one in their own

Wenger said that Kevin Keegan, Bryan Robson, Terry Venables and the man currently in charge in caretaker-capacity Howard Wilkinson would all fit the bill. But he said: "I'm hearing that Keegan and Robson don't want to do it and I would think it would be very hard for Venables to go back. In fact, I read now that you don't want him again."

Meanwhile Sheepshanks, the Ipswich chairman who has been talked about as a future chairman of the FA, has declared that non-English managers should be considered among the candidates.

Sheepshanks, who will be a

of candidates." Tim Flowers has shocked Blackburn Rovers by asking for a transfer - to put Aston Villa on red alert for his signature.

charged with drawing up a

shortlist, would prefer to ap-

point an English-born manag-

er but added: "I believe that we

should not unnecessarily re-

strict ourselves from selecting

from all of the highest calibre

Flowers broke the surprise news on the eve of Blackburn's trip to Villa, an ironic and possibly significant piece of timing. Villa will lose Marc Bosnich in the summer when he can walk out for nothing and Flowers is one of the names at the top of

Flowers revealed the reasons behind his request yesterday and said: "I've told the manager I don't want to hang around too long as a number two. That's no disrespect to anyone here. I'm at a stage in my career when I don't want to be

their wanted list

leading member of the FA international sub-committee boss was fully in agreement with that. We've not had a row and this is nothing financial It's just a matter of wanting a game "

Rovers would want around £2.5m for a keeper who was once Britain's most expensit when he signed during Kenny Dalglish's reign.

Meanwhile, John Gregory has admitted be is not bothered. whether or not Stan Collymore returns to Aston Villa. He added: "If be comes back and gets his head down and gets out with his job and does enough to justify him being in the team, h will play. There is no problem But I do not want to talk any

more about Stan Collymore." The Croatian internations Silvio Maric arrived on Tyneside yesterday to complete his £3.5m move to Newcastle. Lawrie Sanchez, the former

Wimbledon player, was last night named manager of Sec ond Division Wycombe. David Davies profile.

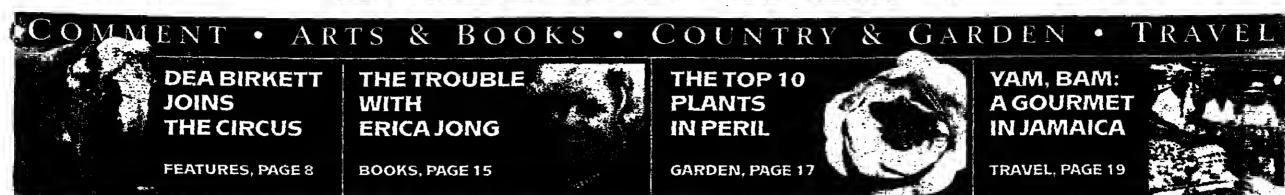
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SEAT 12

Lloyds TSB Five Nations Championship England v Scotland Saturday 20 February 1999







HULIUIN

Simon Dee was once the biggest star on British TV - a Sixties Chris Evans with style. Then things began to slide. MI5 tapped his phone. A cartel of Swiss bankers stole his designs for the Millennium Dome. And as for David Frost...

are Winchester's unly famous residents, according to a local taxi driver called Dave. What about Dodd to become Simon Dee. Simon Dee? "I ain't never In media circles, people had been only slightly more clued up when I told them I was going to Winchester to meet Simon Dee. "God, I thought he was dead," said one. "Didn't he emigrate to New Zealand, or was that the Galloping Gourmet?" said another. "Ah," said a third. "Simon Dee, the locus classicus of the where-are-they-now? feature." When I reported with the term locus classicus. "You must drop that into your article," she said. "But make sure In use it in the right context. Don't say that Simon Dee pulled up in his Locus Classicus."

1 63

Far from it, as it turns out. Simon Dee is skint. Worse, he is skint and unknown. Imagine if, in 2029, Chris Evans is found living annnymously in a small terraced house in deepest Hampshire. It would represent much the same 30-year fall down the rickety ladder of fortune. For, in 1969, tall, toothy Simon Dee, host of the BBC's hit chatand music show, Dee Time, was as big a star as there was on television.

We meet at Winchester's posh Hotel du Vin. He is still tall and toothy and, physically at least, the years have treated him fairly charitably. Later this year he will be 64. "Will you still need me, will you still feed me, when I'm 64?" Lennon and McCartney's words have acquired a poignant ring for a fellow golden boy of

Until 1964 he was called Nicholas Henty-Dodd. He was from a well-to-do Lancashire family and went to Shrewsbury School at around the same time as Michael Heseltine and Richard Ingrams. Juhn Peel was there a little later and, of the by Gadcasters whose careers not unly survived the Sixties but continued to thrive, Peel is me of the few for whum Dee admits a grudg-

His own rise to fame began with Radio Caroline, the pirate radio station set up off the Simon Dee in his Sixties pomp; and at coast of Ireland on a retired Baltic ferry. Radio

oris Yeltsin's grandson and Caroline's founder was an ebullient Irishman, TV's Philippa Forrester Ronan O'Rahilly, whose first recruit was his old drama school pal Henty-Dodd. But Henty-Dodd was no name for a pirate. So he combined his young son's name with the initial letter of

In the Hotel du Vin - between mock-humble heard of him," says Dave. protestations that "it's all so very, very long ago" - Dee enthusiastically recalls the troubled launch of Radio Caroline. "We had to test the signal before we left the anchorage, so we played Ray Charles singing "Round Midnight" as a test signal. All seemed to be well, hut unknown to us we hadn't quite organised the signals correctly, and on every radin and TV set within a 50-mile radius, Ray Charles suddenly interthis exchange, my wife was terribly impressed rupted the main evening news. In Dublin, everyone was crying 'My God, what's going on?' and no wonder, because Ray Charles on a Ham-

mond organ was saturating the news." Dee roars with laughter. He is very hail-fellow-



BY BRIAN VINER

well-met, joshing loudly with the waitress and later rumbustiously defying her request nut to smoke a cigar at the table. But for all the bluster, it is hard not to feel sorry for him. In 1970, following a falling-out with his then-employers London Weekend Television, he took a sabbatical. "I thought, Til have a rest now and take a year off'. It became two years off, then five years, then 10 years, then 20 years, then 30 years off." Again, he roars with laughter. But not, I reckon, because he thinks it's funny.

A few weeks ago, Dee wrote to Mike Leggo, BBC TV's head of light entertainment, listing all the guests he interviewed between 1967 and 1970, and suggesting that he meet them again to ask them "if their dreams came true". He would, of course, need a medium to make contact with many of them. But he sees no reason why he shouldn't make a comeback. "After all, if a racing driver stops racing for 20 or 30 years then gets back in the car, he will soon get it together. The control and co-ordination will still he there." Mike Leggo evidently does not agree.

He has not replied.
But let us again wind back the years to Dee's strange sacking from Radio Caroline. "We finally anchored off the coast of Suffolk," he recalls. "One day I was doing Surday Favourites when the technician on the other side of the glass col-lapsed. I found him on the floor, dying. I went to the microphone and asked for someone to send a boat. Within an hour there must have been 20 rowing boats, yachts, catamarans, and the local lifeboat. The captain later called me to the bridge and said, By calling for assistance, you have mutinied. Get off my ship'."

Dee was promptly hired by BBC Radio, but owed his big television break to the mother of Bill Cotton, one of the most illustrious of Leggo's predecessors as head of BBC light entertainment. As Dee tells it, Mrs Cotton - wife of the band leader Billy - saw him on the box advertising Smiths Crisps, liked what she saw, and recommended him to her son. Surprisingly, Bill Cotton confirms this.

"I think my initial reaction was 'you do the cooking, let me spot the talent'. But on the way home I realised that my mother had seen more performers than I had, and that I ought to take her seriously. So we started Dee Time. He was quite difficult in that first year because it went to his head. But by the second year there's no doubt that he was one of the most powerful people on television. He had great influ-

ence on the young."

This influence was channelled partly through the Dee Code, a 1968 version of the Ten Commandments. Youngsters were asked to write in endorsing the Dee Code and, in return, were sent a weekly letter signed by Dee, which amounted to a lecture in moral rectitude.

Today, those letters make arresting reading On the subject of race relations, for instance, one said: "An intelligent being from outer space might easily decide that the only species of mankind worth preserving was the one with the dark brown skin, the lustrous eyes, sculpted lips and natural grace in movement, and that all those other pallid, thin-lipped, pale-eyed, lank-haired creatures should be painlessly annihilated before they reduced the physical beauty of humanity any further. Think about this, especially when next you hear someone make disparaging remarks about our coloured fellow-citizens."

These were worthy enough sentiments, yet not everyone approved of the Dee Code. In the Daily Mail, Dee was criticised for "getting too big for his with it boots". But still his career seemed gilded, especially when Dee Time replaced the alling Juke Box Jury in the allimportant Saturday early evening slot. For Dee, life got better and better. He drove an Aston Martin. At a glitzy party, he danced with Princess Margaret. And no star - not John Lennon, nor Chariton Heston, nor Michael Caine - was too big to appear on his show. Thanks to Caine, he even landed a part in The Italian Job. "Mike had been on the show and thought he'd do me a favour. I played a poofy Savile Row tailor, and I was so good that poofs started chasing me." This time he laughs so hard that a couple two tables away joins in.

In 1970, Dee was poached by LWT, reportedly Continued on page 2



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TOMORROW IN THE INDEPENDENT **ON SUNDAY**

CULTURE



Going home: the final work by the late Brian Moore

REAL LIFE



What happens when a Hollywood career turns sour? Suzanna Leigh tells the truth



No more cover girls: is this the end of the supermodel?

REVIEW



How the Lonely Planet put an end to lonely travel

PLUS Jeremy Paxman's diary



Independent Eye No 6: Fear in Sarajevo at the sound of a sniper's shot, 1983. From 'An Independent Eye: A Century of Photographs' (Sutton, £20)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2050 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk (e-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address). Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Insult to teachers

Sir: I was seriously considering a teaching career until now.

I am a 28-year-old arts graduate with two degrees. For the past five years I have taught English as a foreign language in private language schools. This experience with primary school children made me think about returning to England and contributing to the education of British children.

I had thought that my 11 O-levels, including maths, physics and chemistry, would be more than adequate for placement on a postgraduate certificate of education course. I had of course expected some training in education, child psychology, teaching methods and so on. I was also quite prepared for a loss of status and lower wages. However, I do not intend to sit remedial maths exams, or to pore gn A-level matns books ("Al teachers must take maths test", 4 February). Mr Blunkett's latest plans are an insult to my intelligence

No. Mr Bhinkett, I will not be returning to England to become a primary school teacher. However, there are a few thousand unemployed maths teachers here in Greece. Do you think that if I teach them adequate English they could come and fill the gap? Perhaps, they could contribute to the foreign language skills of schoolchildren, too! MARINA ROBB Athens

Sir: It is of little surprise that most teachers could not explain the origin of the words "chortle" and "dosh" ("All teachers must take maths test". 4 February). To know that Lewis Carroll invented the former and that the origin of the latter is unknown would demonstrate at best a breadth of general knowledge, not competence in the teaching of grammar. However, should better trained teachers therefore receive more dosh, then all, I am sure, would chortle. IAN MAGGS Hexham, Northumberland

Marriage rethink

Sir: All peoples, not only Judaeo-Christians, have believed that marriage has a sacred character ("There should be nothing holy about matrimony", 30 January). Jo Ind claims Christianity "got it wrong" when the "Church in the 13th century declared it a sacrament".

The Church in east and west always taught in that vein but the western Church actually clarified its meaning, notably in the 13th and

16th centuries. Consequently, Jo's claim that "it is an institution made by man none the less" gained relatively little credence until modern times. Most of us could agree that "we need to rethink marriage". Unlike Christians, Jo Ind may have in mind something other than the union of one man with one woman for life. Rather than tamper with a gift of God, Christians' rethinking seeks to

make marriage work by identifying the obstacles peculiar to each age. The Churches did not criticise the Birmingham radio station's publicity stunt because it was an arranged marriage. The closest and most loving partnership I have known began as an Irish arranged Catholic marriage in 1933. Like Indian arranged marriages support from shared beliefs, an extended family and a close-knit community, which the Birmingham couple will not enjoy. **HUGH LINDSAY** Grange-over-Sands,

Cumbria The writer was Roman Catholic Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle

Nuclear terrorism

Sir: It appears that the Government is about to undermine much of its early good work on trying to establish a rational and practical policy on the future of the nuclear industry. The announcement on 18 January by John Battle, the Energy Secretary, that plutonium is to be shipped from Sellafield to Japan in the form of MOX (mixed oxide) fuel sits uncomfortably with the Environment Agency's October 1998 report on the Sellafield MOX Plant (SMP).

Our concerns about nuclear proliferation seemed to have been accepted by the Environment Agency in the conclusion that "separated plutonium is generally described as weapons-grade or civil grade. For most practical purposes the grade does not affect the arguments

concerning weapons proliferation". They further state that "it would be a relatively straightforward matter to undertake chemical separation of plutonium from MOX fuel. It is debatable how easy it would then be to assemble the plutonium into a crude nuclear device capable of exploding. However, a terrorist group would arguably be able to

exercise considerable power by merely threatening to explode such a weapon".

Following two periods of public consultation and comment on BNFL's application to commission the SMP and the Environment Agency's report to government, which has not elicited any formal announcement, is it not premature to talk of arrangements for shipping MOX fuel to a country which is undecided about the questionable ments of burning it in conventional reactors?

We urge the Government to declare that it will not permit BNFL's ships to leave Barrow-in-Furness docks. MARTIN FORWOOD Cumbrians Opposed to n Radioactive Environment PAD GREEN Friends of the Earth CII MARTIN HEMINGWAY Nuclear Free Local Authorities DAVE KNIGHT працтут. Disarmament PAULLEVENTHAL Nuclear Control Institute Washington DC PETE ROCHE Greenpeace UK MIKE TOWNSLEY Greenpeace International

Life in the slow lane

Penrith, Cumbria

Sir: Mervyn Curran detter, 3 February) is quite right. We should be changing the culture and making the maximum speed in residential areas 20mph. Unfortunately, we Department of Transport approved driving instructors must get pupils to make "reasonable progress" on driving tests. This is interpreted by the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) as meaning that you must drive at least at the current speed limit unless there is a good reason to drive more slowly. Candidates driving at 20mph on all residential streets would certainly fail a test. Candidates can still pass with some examiners despite exceeding the speed limit by as much as 10mph.

Many years ago I asked the then chief examiner, Mr David Norris, if we should all be teaching our pupils to drive at 20mpb in residential areas as recommended in the Department of Transport leaflet "Kill Your Speed, Not A Child" which was then displayed at driving test centres. His reply was: "We allow the DoT to display these leaflets but we do not

necessarily agree with the content." Incidentally, one of the main reasons for the new extended test, to be applied from 4 May, is to include more fast driving. So does the DSA think the main problem with today's drivers is that they are too slow? DAVID PRESCOTT Department of Transport approved

driving instructor Sir. What a welcome letter is Mervyn

Curran's, urging a 20mph urban speed limit. The present 30mph plainly ignores the effects it has had on pedestrians and cyclists. Moreover, so often it is treated as both maximum and minimum,

especially by driving instructors and driving test examiners, who constantly urge their pupils to "make progress", ie not loiter at a safer 20mph but keep up to the 30mph limit. What chance has a child to walk to

or from school? We have denied children the simple right to walk 20mph asap. **JJPUTNAM** Totnes, Devon

Worthless verse

Sir: May I add a word of support to the Oxford University Press in their decision to junk their poetry list. I have spent most of my working life in and around poetry and I have noticed that increasingly poets do not feel any sense of worth unless their work is published. It is like a fetish and does not diminish with age. Unfortunately most poems are worthless and to publish them is madoess.

Such fragile reputations as OUP's former poets enjoy are mainly due to promotion through their own incestuous groups. Certainly no one else is in the least bit interested in

their work, as sales figures show. The Greek master Cavafy never bothered with publishers. He made lots of copies of his poems, held them together with a paper clip and sent them to his friends. I recommend it. BARRY FANTONI

Merchants of misery

Sir: You mention the role of arms dealing in fuelling wars in Africa, and the European Unioo currently has a vital opportunity to clamp down on one aspect of this deadly trade ("Misery engulfs millions as Africa seethes with more wars than ever". 30 January).

The ability of arms brokers in the EU to organise shipments of weapons from third countries to

virtually anywhere in the world has to be curtailed. If the weapons do not touch EU soil, they are not subject to EU export controls.

During its presidency of the EU. the German government is expected to propose that transfers brokered through third countries by EU bases, companies are subject to the same restrictions as weapons exported directly from the EU. These proposals should be supported by the UK government, which unly tends to control brokering of arms to embargoed destinations and brokered transfers of torture equipment, anti-personnel mines and long-range missiles to

other countries. Welcome as the UK steps are. they ignore the fact that many brokered arms deals involve exports of light weapons - machine guns, rifles and mortars - to countries in conflict regions hul not subject to conflicts since 1990 being fought with small arms, such an omission is a crucial mistake. IAN DAVIS

Arms Trade Programme, Saferworld London WC1

IN BRIEF

Sir: My dictionary has a different definition to that suggested by one of your correspondents (letter, 5 February):

Hoddle, v. i. As the holder of a high-profile job whose utterances are likely to be widely reported, to open mouth without engaging brain and make comments which render that job difficult or impossible to perform.

The Manchester edition of my dictionary also includes this entry under "Anderton, v.i." PHILIP GOLDENBERG Woking, Surrey

Sir: The Government is spectacularly inconsistent over food safety. They are over-cautious in respect of selling beef on the bone and yet at the same time they are giving the go-ahead to measures that enable genetically engineered foodstuffs to enter the food chain. Surely one brush with unnatural practices in respect of foodstuffs might ring a few alarm bells somewhere. Why is the press not giving the Government a much harder time over this issue? SIMON FIELD Broadstone, Dorsel

Simon Dee: the long goodbye

Continued from page 1

for the fabulous sum of £100,000 a year. The BBC could not match such a salary, but Cotton wasn't too sorry to see him go.

"It had got to the stage where his ideas of his own importance were actually quite damaging," says Cotton. He thought, as a lot of performers do, that he was bigger than the show. A TV executive has to judge when be has to live with that, and when be doesn't. In his case, I didn't want to. By the way, has be still got those fantasies

Yes, in a word. As lunch at the Hotel du Vin wears on, it becomes increasingly and uncomfortably clear that Dee bas what

appear to be paranoid delusions. In some ways they are understandable. I don't want to trespass on Anthony Clare territory here, but perhaps they are the only way in which he can make sense of the last 30 years of obscurity, following three years in which be was as famous as anyone in

He is convinced, for instance, that he was drummed off television because he opposed Britain's entry into the Common Market. He thinks that the British secret service, and possibly the CIA too, tapped his phone, worried by his interest in the assassination of President Kennedy. Most bizarrely of all, be embarks on a long tale

which ends with him firmly at the centre

of an international conspiracy. To cut it short, he claims that the Moroccan government commissioned him to design a dome for Casablanca. When be delivered the plans, the Moroccans wouldn't pay up, but a posse of Swiss bankers later took him for dinner at the RAC Chub in Pall Mall and said they wanted to build his dome for £100 million.

"I left the RAC Club rather happy. 'My God,' I thought. 'Tve found another metier.' I wake up the next morning, phone their hotel and they've gone, without leaving any note at all. It was all

By now I can see where this is leading and, sure enough, Dee is certain that he has been denied the recognition he deserves, not to mention the fee, for conceiving the Millennium Dome.

But let us again return to 1970. The Simon Dee Show on London Weekend was a flop. Ever since, Dee has beld on to the notion that it was sabotaged by David Frost, who had a sizeable shareholding in the company.

"He was in New York when I joined, and wasn't very pleased when he found that his biggest rival had signed to his own

Dee's bubble of fame and fortune burst. How, I wonder, does he feel when he sees David Frost on television now? "I don't see David Frost on television now," ha says bitterly.

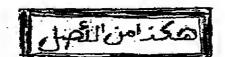
And what has he done for income for the last 30 years? "I have had no income," he says. "When my father died in 1980 I inherited a vast sum of money, but it was taken from me by death duties." Financially, Dee depends on his third wife, a teacher, and spends his days looking after their four-year-old son, Cyril George.

"If you have no money," be adds, "you network." Certainly, the show was given have to concentrate on friendships. It's not an unsociable slot. And in due course, such a bad thing. You have to dwell in

reality." Actually, I don't think that Simon Dee dwells anywhere near reality, but io his boots, I'm not sure I would, either.

Gloria Stewart

In an interview with Paul Johnson by Deborah Ross ("Ginger Spice", 2 November 1998), due to a misunderstanding we misquoted Paul Johnson so as wrongly to suggest that he had accused Gloria Stewart of telling lies. We apologise for this error.



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Do not squander King Hussein's legacy of peace

AS THE West pays its respects to the memory of King Hussein of Jordan, it should pause to acknowledge a conundrum. The King has been a good leader, of his own people and of wider Arab interests in the Middle East. Domestically, his achievement was to hold together the country he inherited from his father, despite the loss of the West Bank and the influx of Palestinian refugees. Internationally, his legacy is to have made peace with Israel, and helped broker more realistic positions by his Arab neighbours in the Middle East peace process.

It is to be hoped that the rather Shakespearian deathbed manoeuvres, dashing at the 11th hour his brother's 33-year expectation of inheriting the crown in favour of his eldest son, Abdullah, will come good. Brother Hassan had a high reputation abroad, especially in Israel where his fluent command of Hebrew and friendship with leading politicians meant he was a known and trusted quantity. Son Abdullah, on the other hand, has a reputation merely as a top soldier. It is assumed that he has learnt political skills from watching his father for the past 37 years, but it is not certain. And it is assumed that, as someone educated in Britain, he shares - or at least understands - the values of liberal democracy, and will thus continue King Hussein's pro-Western, pragmatic and peaceful policy.

It is in the values of liberal democracy that the conundrum lies. Western liberal democrats tend to take it as read that, if the Arab countries were democracies, the prospects of peace in the Middle East would be better. But it could be that it was preferable that an enlightened despot should have ruled Jordan for so long. The danger of democracy in a culture dominated by grievance against external enemies is that it could throw up an Islamicist demagogue who would want to fight again the wars of 1967 and 1973 against Israel, or fight the holy war against the American-dominated world order.

Equally, though, it could be argued that it is only by moving towards democracy that the rage of Moslem fundamentalism will be channelled into a constructive engagement with the rest of the world. The evidence from other parts of the globe is unclear. India and Pakistan are both democracies, and that has not stopped a series of "hot" wars, or an escalating "cold" war of nuclear weapons competition. Nor have the excesses of Islamic theocracy been noticeably curbed in Pakistan.

The issue of democracy is not raised by the succession in Jordan alone. Power has been effectively handed down in the house of Fahd in Saudi Arabia, while leaders in Egypt and Syria will be replaced in the next few years. Colonel Gaddafi in Libya is not a well man, while even Saddam Hussein must be approaching his rendezvous with mortality. In that context, King Hussein's limited moves towards a constitutional monarchy should be seen as a welcome attempt to secure power based on popular consent. King Abdullah should be given support to broaden his democratic base.

The best bope for advancing the Middle East peace process, though, lies in a different succession battle later this year. If the Israeli elections replace Benjamin Netanyahu with a leader who can unite the forces committed to peace and dialogue with the Palestinians, which are greater than the forces of hostility, then King Hussein's life work stands a chance of being completed.



A mixed review for this angry young man

GORE VIDAL once said that the only people who enjoy themselves in the theatre are the cast. For much of the time, he is right. Which theatre-goer has not looked at his or her watch or wondered why the seats are so uncomfortable in the middle of a supposedly engrossing and emotional performance? It is not a new observation. John Osborne got himself all worked up about the staid politeness of middle-class life in general and the theatre in particular 40 years ago, and tried to shake it up. Not that Look Back in Anger would keep everyone from fiddling with their programme notes.

Steven Berkoff revived the angry spirit with his demand that drama should be "in your face" - to similarly mixed reviews. Now Irvine Welsh, famous for the ambiguous heroin chic of Trainspotting, has become the latest angry young person to rail against the suffocating politeness and tedium of British theatre.

He certainly succeeded in shocking the bourgeois: one critic described his new play, You'll Have Had Your Hole, as "the most obnoxious and contemptible"that he had ever seen. Indeed, his tale of gangsterism, anal rape, torture and drug-taking would not be to everyone's taste. But there is something rather predictable about Mr Welsh's rant against the elitism of modern theatre. It might have made the pulse race faster in Mr Osborne's

day; now it is easier to dismiss such adolescent posturing as mere publicity-seeking.

But what of the substance of Mr Welsh's complaint that, because theatre is a "posher and older" medium than the cinema, most West End plays are "soporific" and most theatres have a "cricket Test ambience designed to keep a younger, hipper crew away"?

It is true that too much of our theatre is self-satisfied, too many bad plays are put on and too many audiences are prepared to put up with it because they think they are being highbrow. And these are faults that all too few people involved in the theatre will recognise. But there are boring films and books as well. Imagine an author going on a talk show to launch a tirade against Captain Corelli's Mandolin, saying it was silly and pompous and demanding to know who on earth could afford to pay £17.99 for the hardback. He or she would be laughed out of the studio. If you do not like a book, you can stop reading it. If the film is no good, you can go to sleep until it is over or engage in traditional hack-row-of-the-movies pastimes. If a rock concert is not as good as the CD you can go and get a drink. But theatre is different. The audience is implicated in the performance. It is trapped. If people are bored, it affects what happens on stage. Whatever a cinema audience does, it does not change what is on the screen.

That is why the audience for a mediocre play feels embarrassed, constrained and annoyed. But that is also why, if a live performance succeeds in "breaking through", it is so much more powerful than a film. The audience can be swept up in a way that is all the more memorable for not relying on the set changing with every shot, or the special effects, or the fact that the director was able to choose the best of 40 takes. It is precisely the closed-in, inescapable nature of the theatre that makes great drama great.

Sadly, the reality is that there is too much tedious drama staged and, as Mr Welsh says, too little innovation. But to extrapolate from this that "theatre is finished as an art form", a theme that appears in the national press every three months or so, is daft. Because when the theatre is good, it can be sublime. Depending on taste, a good Shakespeare production, a good Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, a good farce, even a good Irvine Welsh play, can stay with you for life in a way nothing else can.

That old chestnut...

JAMES CALLAGHAN, 86, says he does not agree with an age limit of 75 for the new-look House of Lords. He would say that, wouldn't he? But the old buffer is right. The proposal, which ministers are considering, is an embarrassment for Tony Blair, who just this week vouchsafed his opposition to age discrimination in the pages of Saga Magazine. If oldies are allowed to drive provided they pass another test, should not MPs. judges and members of the Upper House be allowed to serve. provided they can name the shadow Home Secretary?

Even the smallest gesture from the IRA could salvage peace

I HEAR the sound of distant drums. agreement, see in the latest crisis over two months away to be precise. The drums to which I refer are those of Ulster's marching season, the summer as a focal point of their anger. months of unrest and irrationality. If the Ulster peace process were working as it should, then there would be young Catholic boys. Had that tragedy advent of the marching season at Easter. There would be a powershared responsibility for the policing

Mr David Trimble and Mr Seamus Mallon would be sitting down with the leaders of Sinn Fein and loyalist groups to smooth a path through the dangerous summer months.

of demonstrations.

But what we have now is an agreement without the apparent will to make it work. Instead the punishment squads - fascists by any other name - batter and brutalise, the IRA and loyalist paramilitaries sit on their arsenals and dissident republicans plot a renewed campaign of terror.

Mo Mowlam's uncharacteristically gloomy expression on television this week was an indication of the brecarious state of the process. Be assured that we are in serious trouble. The central assumption of the peace process - that common sense will ultimately prevail – looks less tenable than at any time since the Drumcree stand-off last July.

Consider the largely unreported clashes that have occurred around the Garvaghy Road area in the past week or so. Sectarian tension is high in Portadown, and the Drumcree standoff is again building towards a confrontation. Hardline loyalists, who have long wished for the collapse of the

They are beating in the future - about decommissioning the chance to drag the Ulster Unionists out of the process. They will again use Drumcree

That protest collapsed last year only because of the tragic deaths of three less reason than usual to fear the not happened the police and Army would have faced an unprecedented confrontation with loyalist protestsharing executive of unionists and ers. That in turn would almost certnationalists sitting in Stormont with ainly have ruined Mr Trimble's chances of persuading the doubters in his own party to stick with the process. As Drumcree looms once again, Mr Trimble needs all the help he can get. What be wants is to see a start to the

decommissioning process The question is whether those whom he needs to help him, principally Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness. are either willing or able to deliver. I believe Mr Adams has travelled a long distance to his present position. He has made a journey that has involved the abandonment of armed struggle and the acceptance - so long unthinkable for republicans - of a political settle-

ment within a United Kingdom. The notico that he would bring his movement that far and then abandon the process for the sake of guns does not tally with what he know of his pragmatic political approach. It has been suggested that Mr Adams could make an historic compromise and follow the route of another republican leader, Eamon de Valera, who in 1927 agreed to take an oath of allegiance to the King in order to enter the Dail of the new

Irish Free State. But there is a critical historical difference in the circumstances in which both men have operated. When de Valera agreed to take the oath be did



FERGAL KEANE The peace process is likely

to break down unless the republicans compromise on weapons decommissioning

so as the leader of a movement that had suffered a resounding military defeat four years before, in the Irish Civil War. The backwash of defeat enabled de Valera to make his historic U-turn. Militarism as a principle had been discredited. Even then, some of de Valera's supporters were said to have attended the Dail with guns secreted on their persons. The issue for today's IRA is that, unlike its forebears in the Irish civil war, it has not been defeated and thus should not be expected to "surrender" its weapons. One of the essential building-blocks of the current settlement is the promise that nobody

has been defeated. Decommissioning of weapons is wrongly seen by republicans as an implicit acceptance of military defeat. And yet that is what the agreement which Sinn Fein (and by implication the IRA) supported now demands. But let us stay with de Valera for a moment. "Dev" was an exceptionally shrewd political operator. While he lacked the passion and charisma of Michael

Collins, he was by far the more wily politician. That is why Dev survived the murderous trauma of the civil war years and Collins did not. Mr Adams knows there are many republican dissidents who would happily send him the way of Collins. And he may feel that he has pulled republicans as far as he can along the road to compromise with Mr Trimble. His concern now is probably as much with keeping the mainstream republican movement together as it is with advancing the

The brutal attempts of the IRA to keep the dissidents in line - witness the beating of Paddy Fox last week are the most public sign we have of the battle within republicanism. Now that the Real IRA and Continuity IRA are building up weapons supplies and apparently planning terrorist attacks in Britain, the possibility of a fratricidal feud with the Provisional IRA becomes a serious possibility.

peace process.

Can the Provos afford a well-armed and militarily aggressive organisation claiming the mantle of the Irish Republican Army? If it did come to a fight the Provos would win, but the cost in terms of lives and political progress

could be huge. For one thing the eruption of a shooting war would force the Government to suspend Sinn Fein's involvement in the peace process - the argument that the IRA was fighting to

destroy a dissident threat to the process would be given short shrift. A bloody feud similar to those we have seen in the past would be one breach of the Mitchell Principles too far. And how sure could we be that the Provisionals and Sinn Fein would be

successfully through the past few

dangerous years? I believe David Trimble and Gerry Adams are both brave men. They are creatures of different cultures and traditions thrown together by the demands of peace.

The question now should be bow they can help each other. I believe those around Mr Trimble when they say that any compromise on decommissioning by the Ulster Unionist leader would lead to his political demise. That is a fact not political spin. But I also accept that Mr Adams is not in a position to deliver the wholesale decommissioning of IRA weapons. What then is the half-way house that gets both men off the book and allows

this process to move forward? There must be a symbolic gesture towards decommissioning from the IRA. How they do it, where they do it, what weapons are involved, is a matter they can resolve with the decommissioning body.

I don't believe there will be a largescale destruction of guns - not while the threat from dissidents and loyalist paramilitaries remains, not while the peace process remains in such a precarious state. But it is not too much to ask that the IRA signals its commitment to the peace process by offering a gesture to the embattled Mr Trimble. It is then up to Mr Trimble to accept that gesture and convince his

supporters. Things are bad, but there is still time and there is still a choice. The IRA must make its choice now: a crucial gesture towards peace or a summer and more of agony.

led by the same people who have The writer is a BBC News special steered the republican movement correspondent

Kosova children appeal to Independent readers Kosovar children refugees in Albania face cold, hunger and deepens. Many are in deep shock, having witnessed their parents and relatives killed in the awful atrocities from which they fled. country in Europe, has few resources to support the massive

Your action will help children who have lost everything The European Children's Trust needs your swift

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LOOSE CHANGE

HOLDEN MEEHAN, the independent financial advice firm, has published a new and substantially updated edition of its guide to green and ethical investments. The 40-page guide comments on the latest development in the market, including "dark", "medium" and "light" green investments, ethical banking, plus key questions for potential investors to consider and offers a self-diagnostic profile section at the end. Free copies are available

The second secon

by calling 0800 7314505. NORTHERN ROCK is launching a new mortgage package which combines a home loan with a personal one. The offer allows borrowers to use the money for nonmortgage repayment purposes. Loans are secured against the property. Rates start at 6.49 per cent and are guaranteed to remain at 0.5 per cent below Northern Rock's standard variable rate for the duration of the loan period, Call 0845 6006050 for details.

STANDARD LIFE Investments is cutting annual management charges on Global Advantage, its activelymanaged fund, from 1.5 per cent to 1 per cent. The reduction will apply both to new investors and to its existing 82,000 customers. The cut allows Global Advantage, Standard Life's biggest fund, to obtain a Governmentbacked CAT mark, the benchmark given to funds offering fair terms, low costs and easy access. More details are available from any independent financial adviser.

WITH INTEREST rates coming down fast, it is sometimes more expensive to take out a shorter-term fix in case one is left with a higher rate by the end of the fixed-term period. Manchester Building

Society is launching a two-year fix, pegged at 4.49 per cent until March 2001. There is an arrangement fee of £395 applying on minimum loans of £50,000. Call

NORWICH UNION is cutting the initial charge on its European Equity Fund PEP from 5 per cent to 3 per cent, until Monday 5 April. Contact an independent financial adviser for more details.

FIRST ACTIVE, the telephone-based mortgage lender and savings account provider, is launching a range of new eurodenominated offshore accounts, based in Guernsey. They include instant access, 30-day and 60-day notice accounts. Call 01491 710400 for details of interest rates.

FIRST MORTGAGE, the telephone-based home loan company, is launching its cheapest ever three-year fixed rate mortgage, pegged at 3.99 per cent until 31 March 2002. The loan requires a £395 application fee and is available on loans-to-value up to 90 per cent. There are no compulsory insurances. Call 0800 080088 for more details.

SUN BANK, the banking arm of Sun Life of Canada, the insurers, is guaranteeing the rates on its variable Tessas until 5 April. Variable rate Tessas currently pay 6.75 per cent. Call 01438 744656.

SG ASSET Management is launching a PEPqualifying UK Income unit trust, with a yield marginally above those available in equity markets. It aims to boost income by improving growth. Initial charges are 5.25 per cent, with annual management fees of L5 per cent, taken from capital. Call 0800 1007426.

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Biff! Kerpow! Splat! There goes another warlord

HAS YOUR local swimming-pool turned into a sports and leisure cultivation of old tissues, vertuca centre yet? Ours has. I know this because above the door where there used to be a modest sign saying "Entrance to pool" and an arrow, there is now a huge blue, nis mouth white and gold hillboard covering half the wall with SPORTS AND LEISURE CENTRE in 2-ft-high letters surrounded by fluorescent go-faster atripes. It's certainly impressive. People walking past stop and gaze at it in wonder, as well they might because, apart from the

sign, nothing else has changed. The line in the passage is still scuffed. The ladies' changing room has the same mottled concrete floor sloping towards the centre, and the 2-in puddle of brackish water that inevitably collects in this depression still offers excellent plasters, toenails and hair.

Hied. There have been changes. Outside the gents' changing-room. m place of the scales that gave your weight in stones, pounds and ounces, there is now a vast, chrome vending-machine offering 50 varieties of health drink and, beside it, a glass cabinet displaying supersupport sports hras. This must be the leisure section.

Last time I went for a swim the receptionist asked if I wanted the special half-price membership to the gym, available in February only. What gym? "Kadisha", called the receptionist. "Would you show the lady our oew facilities?" A superbly supported girl in trainers emerged from a back room and took me upstairs. "Isn't this where



SUE ARNOLD

She showed me how, with a knee-jerk to the groin, I could unseat a mugger on the Northern line

the spectators' gallery is?" I asked, remembering ooisy swimminggala evenings. "I didn't think there was anything else up here apart from a couple of broom cupboards."

You'd be amazed how much fitness equipment you can squeeze into two broom cupboards, or how many sweaty people. If the man on the weighing-machine had had more hair or indeed any hair at all. it would have brushed the knees of the girl on the exercise bike every time he leaned forward. Kadisha said there were plans to incorporate a multi-purpose exercise studio but I'd had enough sport for one day and took the membership brochure home to ponder.

"Why don't you get a personal trainer," advised a well-heeled friend who is currently in the middle of an acrimonious divorce, most of the acrimony arising from her ex-husband's refusal to contimue paying for her personal trainer. The mean beast, said Phoebe. "I know they're expensive. But

than going to a gym and work out cheaper hecause you stop going to gyms because they're so squalid." I thought of the bald man on the weighing machine. How much is a personal trainer, and what exactly do they do. I asked. How long is a piece of string, said Phoebe.

Next morning, Anne-Marie, tall, lithe, blonde and carrying a sports bag full of weights and boxing gloves, arrived at 7.30 sharp. She specialises in that strain of martial arts known as Tai-Kwon-Do, her aim being not just to make you fit, but fighting fit. Her husband, Winston, is the British Tai kick-boxing champion. I don't suppose their neighbours complain about loud music after 10.30pm.

Between six and seven that morning Anne-Marie had personally trained a banker in Hampstead who wanted toning and muscle definition. After me she had a couple of housewives who wanted to lose weight and, that evening, she was seeing a barrister who was particularly fond of that Tai-Kwon-Do ex-

ercise where you jump, twist and

kick. He likes kicking really hard.

I cleared sundry shoes, cereal bowls and items of clothing from the sitting-room floor and Anne-Marie took me through some warm-up exercises. "Great," she said, "you're doing great. Now kick this." She produced what looked like a leather oven-glove and held it at waist height. "Kerpow!" went my bare foot against the glove.

"Mum, where's my packed lunch?" said the youngest. Biff! Kerpow! Splat! I was now doing extended twist-kicks like Bruce Lee

lunch?" asked my husband.

Anne-Marie was explaining how Tai-Kwon-Do was invented by oppressed Korean peasants. There was one particularly impressive aerial kick designed to unseat oppressive warlords from their horses hut, unfortunately, she couldn't demonstrate it for me because she had just cracked a rib. Gosh, how? I asked. After a bad

coughing fit, said Anne-Marie. I should like to learn how to unseat an oppressive warlord but, in the meantime, Anne-Marie showed me how, with a graceful knee-jerk to the groin, I could unseat or more likely unman a mugger on the Northern Line.

Toning, muscle definition, selfdefence. It's a snip. Go for it. Phoebe. Why settle for less?

THE SATURDAY PROFILE

DAVID DAVIES, ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE FA

The presentable face of football

THE PRESS conference was turning nasty and Bobby Robson, the England football manager, did not like the way the questions were going. Finally be snapped, got up from his chair, stepped off the dais, and opened a side door. Several brooms fell out. Rohson, flustered, strode through the media to the door at the far end of the hall. Then he strode back; he had left his mackintosh on the chair. Muffled sniggers were heard. This is how the Football Association used to work.

On Tuesday there was another press conference, called to announce the dismissal of Glenn Hoddle, one of Robson's successors. Seconds into it, with David Davies, the FA's director of public affairs and acting chief executive, reading a prepared statement, a man burst into the room screaming obscenities. As he was wrestled to the ground by security men and surrounded by press photographers, Davies quietly waited. Then, after a light-hearted reference to being interrupted for a "commercial hreak", he calmly read the statement again.

This is how the FA works today. This is why Davies, the FA's press officer managed to emerge from a week in which his chief client was pilloried, ridiculed and sacked, with his own image enhanced. Acute political antennae, a smooth presentational manner, hard work and ruthlessness ensured that Hoddle's departure was not accompanied by that of his messenger.

Davies is football's spin doctor, its Alastair Campbell. But he is also its Peter Mandelson, seeking to direct policy as well as disseminate it.

In his dramatic rise from reporting on football to running it, he, too, has made enemies; hut, unlike Tony Blair's fallen favourite, he is yet to overreach himself. He even survived his collusion with Hoddle in the notorious World Cup diary, which betraved dressing-room confidences.

Davies has now become, in the words of one leading commentator, "arguably the most powerful administrator in the English game". At a time when football, once confined to factory floor and public bar, even pervades the Cahinet, that is an influenrial position, one underlined by regular contact between Davies and Campbell.

Such a link should come as no surprise, given Davies's hackground. Politics is in the family, his grandfather was mayor of St Pancras and his father would have contested the 1950 election but for his early death. They were Tories, hut other family members had socialist allegiances and it was that example which Davies followed when he became involved in student politics at Sheffield University.

Football was also in his blood by then; appropriately, he played left wing for the university. He had been enraptured by the perceived adult glamour of the game as an eight-year-old, when Manchester United fans wearing hig, hright red rosettes had visited the family grocer's at Euston Station en route to that year's FA Cup final.

Though he attempts to be impartial he remains a keen United fan. Last Sunday, while working on the Hoddle story, I was on the phone to him when he suddenly sounded distracted, I looked up and saw that on television, Sky were showing United's match-winning goal at Charlton, scored a few seconds earlier.

LIFE STORY

Origins: Born 28 May 1948, In

Education: Sheffield University (BA) politics); Oxford (Cert Ed). Media career: Belfast Telegraph (1970); BBC Wales (1971-72); BBC Manchester (1972-83); Political correspondent (1983-86): Education correspondent (1986-89); BBC Midlands (1989-94). Other jobs: Football Association: Director of Public Affairs (February 1994-1: Acting chief executive (December 1998-).

Family: Welsh father, Irish mother. Scottish wife. Susan, a former Miss Britain. They married in 1977 having become engaged on their first date. Two daughters, Amanda and Caroline.

Nicknames: The Bishop (BBC), Mr Bumble (tabloids) He says: "I am a football fan first and foremost."

Critics say: "He is upfront without ever coming forward with the kind of friendship that suggests he Is totally sincere." (Nigel Clarke, sports writer)

He took his twin passions to Oxford, where he acquired a teaching certificate he has never used, before entering journalism with the Belfast Telegraph. That veek the Troubles began; timing, as he is fond of saying, is everything.

He swiftly moved on to the BBC, initially in Wales, then Manchester, London and Birmingham. During a varied 23-year career he covered everything: politics, education, crime - even presenting Songs of Praise. The experience has been invaluable in his current jobs. His time as a lobby correspondent educated him in the ways of Westminster and brought him important contacts; his interviewing and presenting taught him to handle himself in front of reporters and cameras. All the while he maintained a link with football, covering matches, attending tournaments, seeing for himself the terrible gaffes the FA blundered into.

The FA had a press office, but it was

given little status and staffed accordingly. During Graham Taylor's III-fated reign one press officer arrived at a media conference with a large alarm clock in an attempt to instil control over its duration. As in most British sporting institutions, the principle was the hopeless one of suppressing news rather than anticipating and managing it.

Davies was approached, with a brief to change this, almost five years ago. His title, "director of public affairs" rather than "press officer", reflected the enhanced role. It has proved to be a more difficult task than be could have imagined. He spent his first 12 months reacting to events as three footballers were accused of match-fixing, another confessed to a drugs, alcohol and gambling addiction, Eric Cantona assaulted a supporter, England fans rioted in Dublin, and there were allegations of "bungs" (illegal financial inducements) involving leading managers.

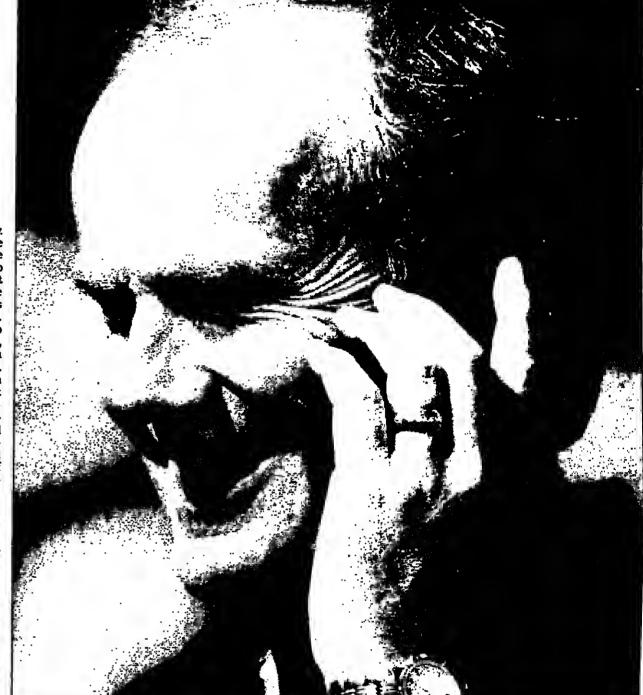
However, as with this week, each crisis gave Davies justification for pushing brough changes, often in the face of ste resistance from a hidebound and conservative administration. His creation of a large press department led to accusations of empire-building but, aside from the need to meet the growing demands of the media, this was more a case of huilding the power base that was required to survive the FA's internal politics.

It has also, his detractors say, enabled him to concentrate on the more glamorous jobs while others do the paperwork. Most notably, Davies presents the televised FA Cup draw and acts as press attaché to the England coach of the day. Given his television experience it would be daft if be were not to undertake the first role; hut there is a hint of vanity here, and it almost cost him his job in the summer

Davies has advised three England managers: Terry Venables, Hoddle, and the caretaker incumbent, Howard Wilkinson. The media was divided by Venahles: they either loved or hated him. Hoddle wanted to avoid this and sought to be even-handed. Thus, when he decided to write a book about England's World Cup campaign last summer as had previous England coaches. he and Davies decided that Davies should "ghost-write" for him.

It was a public relations disaster. Information was released that had been previously denied, and several leading figures in the game, including current internationals, were criticised. Davies's desire to tell a story had got the better of his judgement. He later admitted: "I wanted to be involved, as I had never written a book before-but I won't be doing another in a hurry."

He can also, notes a friend, be 'pompous". Two years ago, at a reception in the British Embassy in Rome to promote England's 2006 World Cup Bid, Davies told a rambling tale about the guest of hooour, the former Manchester United and England footballer Sir Bobby Charlton, It was about an intrepid back-packing student in



Called to action: a dramatic rise from sports reporting to running the Football Association

Adom Butler PA

the Seventies who found himself imprisoned at an Iron Curtain border town for having the wrong papers. The guards freed him after he said the magic words "Bob-bee Charl-ton". Long before the denovement it was obvious that the pay-off would be "and I was that poor student".

But Davies can laugh at himself and happily tells a tale from Euro '96, the football championship England hosted three years ago. One night Davies had retired to bed early, leaving the players celebrating an important victory. He was awoken by a call from reception informing him that a retired colonel living near the hotel had complained about the noise. He weot outside, couldn't hear a thing, but told the players - who were not drunk - to keep the noise down, and went back to bed.

He was awoken again to he told that the colonel had complained to the police that two players had been running around oaked in the hotel gardens and had been seen by his teenage daughters. The police were downstairs. They said the colonel wanted to press charges. The horrific prospect of this leaking out to the press loomed. Davies was asked to come down to the station to answer questions and to organise an identity parade. Then one of and the summer, when the fuss about the be presenting Songs of Praise.

laughing. The whole affair had been set up members spending time in hospital. has by Terry Venables.

The pair formed a warm relationship April Fool's Day joke that involved faxing a new press conference policy - "one for journalists with joined-up writing, one for tabloids". To Davies's enduring frustration Venables leaked the tale.

Writing and surviving the World Cup book brought Davies and Hoddle close together but, last week, Davies cut Hoddle adrift as soon as he sensed the way the wind was going. He was also acting chief executive, and his need to protect the FA - and himself - overtook his desire to protect Hoddle. As Hoddle floundered Davies prospered, presenting an unflappable presence to the cameras and a strong hand to the men who will decide, this summer, whether he should be given the chief executive's role permanently.

He has not publicly decided whether to apply. He is unsure about the effect on his family, who still live in Birmingham, though the eldest daughter is now at Oxford. Having lost his father as an infant be values family life, and the stresses of this week the policemen cracked, and burst out book coincided with several close family

given him pause for thought. Most observers expect him to take it if

based oo humour. They once planned an the chance arises. Enough of the idealist student remains to see football as a potall the national newspapers to announce ential force for good and, since his arrival. the FA has become much more active in promoting social causes including that of disabled football. If he fails to be named as chief executive, he may stay in the game as long as football's star remains in the ascendant. He enjoys the sport and, at present, the profile of the job is as high as anything in government. It is also possible to impact on people's lives more directly.

But should he choose to leave the sport. or be squeezed out, expect him to move into politics. He is ambitious, is well thought of in government circles and those of the Opposition, and already has much of the politician's manner. While oot mendacious, he can stonewall. When the pressure was on this week he turned questions about Hoddle's comments about disabled people into an advertisement for an FA initiative on disabled sport.

Whatever happens to Davies, he is likely to be seen on our television screens for several years to come, and it will not

GLENN MOORE

RARELY CAN a project have been as ill-starred as Steve Martin's attempt a few years ago to revive Sergeant Bilko, the TV character made gloriously immortal by the great Phil Silvers. Martin's trouble is that he suffers from what doctors call Robin Williams syndrome, an insatiable need for every character he plays to to a touchy, feely, huggy bundle of love, which wasn't Bilko at all.

The joy of Bilko was that he was essentially disreputable, an army sergeant who would trick the young soldiers in his charge out of their meagre wages and shamelessly flatter his superiors for his own nefarious ends; yet for all that, you could

not help liking him. This was almost entirely due to the performance of Silvers, previ-

ously a successful vaudevillian, an occasional movie star, and the composer of Frank Sinatra's hit some Nancy with the Laughing Face". who in his own words "was predestined to play Bilko".

Not that there was much performing involved. When Silvers was cloistered with the writer Nat Hiken in 1954, and asked to come up with a sit-com for CBS, his genius was to create a character based, according to the journalist Robert Chalmers, in a definitive profile of the actor, "on Silvers' own instincts, notably a fun- the jackpot sometimes. damental compassion masked by a pathological craving for action".

Phil Silvers was the gambler's

ACCIDENTAL HEROES OF THE 20TH CENTURY

26: PHIL SILVERS, ACTOR

lamented, that Bilko had rather very end, in 1985. better scriptwriters. He used to win

in thrall to his particular addiction. got his buzz out of losing. It was a gambler, haunted by the voice that buzz he was rarely short of, but it did

"Our money. Crying out into the comic genius's twin constant comnight, 'Daddy, take us home'." The panions of melancholia and fear of difference was, as Silvers once failure blighted Silvers' life to the

The actor's mental problems even found their way into Nat no lights on. She must be in." Silvers, by all accounts, like many Hiken's scripts for Bilko. In one episode, "The Rest Cure", Bilko felgns psychosis and is tormented by tom-toms audible only to himself. In tormented Sergeant Bilko. "I hear not, it will hardly startle you to another, he is plunged into a listless money," Bilko would tell his men. learn, bring him happiness. The decline, having lost the urge to to the horror of the cast, the accused hardy heroism about it.

gamble. "Freud," Bilko tells the motor pool in one of his semiimprovised monologues, "states that when a man has receded from society in his mind, and the frustration is inside him, he will withdraw from the world" - foreshadowing his own story

But despite his problems, he -Bilko/Silvers - was, according to the evidence, a pussycat, loving of his children and generous to colleagues. And very, very funny. When he visits a medium, he says: "There are

He could improvise brilliantly. In the episode "The Court Martial", a chimpanzee is accidentally inducted into the motor pool. Bilko is defending the animal at its trial when.

climbs down from the stand and lifts the receiver of a nearby telephone. "Sir, I request an adjournment," says Bilko. "My client is calling for another attorney."

It is difficult to diverge from Chalmers' view that, for its brief life between 1955 and 1959, The Phil Silvers Show achieved a level of sustained inspiration that has never been bettered in television comedy.

In an era when the tradition in American sit-com was for the male lead to be played by some nondescript Dick in a button-down shirt - Dick York in Bewitched, Dick Van Dyke in anything - Silvers' selfdestructive decision to put so much of himself into prime time had more than a whiff of the gambler's fool-



THE WEEKLY MUSE

BY MARTIN NEWELL



A chunk of Beachy Head falls down, The Cliffs of Dover stop being white: The teeth of England's southern coast Are rotting quietly overnight And disappointment will be rife Among the tourists coming in. Dispatch a flock of pigeons now, And spare the heart of Vera Lynn.

It's curtains for the ruddy duck, A waterfowl which likes to breed With other species - so much so That Michael Meacher feels the need To wipe the randy creatures out, A move that's almost guaranteed To cause another rural row Among the meres and river-weed

When twitchers in their anoraks, Who hate these bronze Anatidae, Lock horns with liberationists On river banks each Saturday.

The "crisis of our Englishness"... A blunt new survey rates us As a dull and vulgar people Whose Celtic neighbours hate us. The Scots, the Welsh, the Irish Make cultural advances While all we have are hooligans, Hugh Grant and morris dances. Now may I say in our defence True Englishness is subtler And hidden deep within us Like the passion of a butler For the mistress in her mansion. So it's rare that we reveal it. But because you cannot see it Doesn't mean we do not feel it.

Hoddle! Just the sound of it Deserves a definition. Hoddled by the tabloids, Then deprived of your position. Hoddle - used of journalists, A good collective noun For a pack of baying toerags Waiting months to do you down.

New clone control is on its way. The Government has told us so. But even if it's put in force, If clones escape, how do we know? Besides, my clone will be of use To write my stanzas if I die. And since be's worked with me I find . I like the bloke... and so do I.

THE WEASEL

On discovering that decadence is the new grey and Charles I was the shortest English monarch. I celebrate with an Alaskan red

find ourselves in a quandary about re-decorating Weasel Villas. We'd plumped for art gallery white in the din-ing room, but then Mrs W read somewhere that grey is all the rage this year Unfortunately, the walls are already painted grey. Alternatively, we could take the plunge for something a bit bolder. Something historical perhaps, redolent of a time celebrated for artistic creativity hut notorious for sexual experiment, a discordant, neurotic era teetering on the brink of totalitarianism. If this seems all a long way from slapping on the Dulux, you could be right, but it is what is being advocated in the pages of the current issue of The World of Interiors, which devotes 10

As far as I'm aware, it is the first time that an article on decoration has been inspired by an unstable German republic (1919-1933). The magazine suggests that we should draw "the decadent styles of Twenties Berlin into the new, naughty Nineties". In case you're wondering how to adopt the fashionable Weimar look, the photo spreads include: a gaunt young man holding a carnation; a pair of elderly bohos in a terminally frayed leather chair, an amaryllis in a bath-tub; a large lady in a red dress posing before a length of red fabric (a snip at £345 per metre); and an octopus in a "uranium glass vase" (£1,000).

pages to the "Weimar Palette".

It looks just the ticket for Weasel Villas (particularly the octopus). Mind you, to get the full flavour of Weimar edginess, we'll probably need to invest in one or two accessories. Getting six

million unemployed into Weasel Villas may be a bit ambitious, but it should not be too hard to get Mrs W to plaster down ber hair and wear a monocle. Eventually, I can see us both drinking schnapps and bellowing an off-key Kurt Weill number: "Show me the way to the next whisky bar ... " All very jolly. The only slight complication with such a daring makeover is: what comes

IS THERE no limit to Rupert Murdoch's hypocritical prudery? The shame-faced backs of the Murdoch empire are obliged to insert a generous helping of asterisks when using even moderately rude words. A classic example occurred in last week's Sunday Times Book Section, where Harvey Porlock's survey of book reviews quoted Will Self's view that "to a writer, literary hiography is flat-out porn. W**k material"

Somehow, I find it unlikely that the acid-tongued Mr Self, who was writing in the New Statesman, incorporated this hrace of stars in his original copy. Yet, in order to avert a fit of the vapours in the maiden aimts who read the Sunday Times, the offending epithet was ruthlessly emasculated. It is, of course, a pretty obvious irony that "W**k material" features on a daily basis in the Sunday Times' sister paper, The Sun.

It is just as well that the publishers of Jonathon Green's acclaimed Dictionary of Slang (Cassell, £25) do not take a Murdochian line with scatology.

Otherwise, this 1,300-page tome, which provides 797 alternatives for masturbation, would contain whole galaxies of asterisks. Personally, I'm drawn to Mr Green's more genteel inclusions. such as "Cor! Chase me round the gasworks!" (defined as "general excl. of astonishment"). But it turns out that even such Bunteresque expressions as "Crikey!", "Cripes!", and "Crumbs!"



are euphemisms for "Christ!". To spare the blushes of delicate souls, they will doubtless appear as C *** ey! C***es! and C***bs! in Rupert's rags.

IT TURNS out that the small display in the Banqueting House, which I men-tioned last week, is not the sole event that commemorates the execution of Charles I. A much larger exhibition devoted to the unfortunate sovereign

has opened in the Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace. With unexpected black humour, the title of the show is The King's Head. Treasures on show range from van Dyck's stunning triple portrait of the melancholy monarch to a post-mortem miniature said to be embroidered with the king's own hair. I had to go after reading a review by John Russell Taylor, intrigued in par-

ticular by his assertion that "Charles I was the shortest English monarch (while his son Charles II was, oddly, the tallest)". This was puzzling because

read somewhere that Edward I aka "Longshanks", the hlackhearted villain of Braveheart thiss, boo!), was the tallest royal. My researches revealed that Charles II's reputation as a giant stems from a "wanted" poster during the Civil War, which described him as "a tall, dark man above two yards high". However, there are one or two bits of evidence which suggest we should knock a few inches off this estimate. According to one reference work, the Merry Monarch rode several winners at New-

market". When did you last see a jockey who topped 6ft? A more substantial indication of his true stature appears in a 1661 portrait by John Michael Wright, which portrays the king wearing a pair of rather tarty doeskin boots with approximately three-inch heels.

The shortness of his dad is less in question - not that you would guess he was a half-pint from the noble portraits currently on display in Buck House. (An instructive parallel may be drawn with images of the less than lowering House of Windsor! Though one of the works is titled The High and Mightu Monarch Charles, the exhibition cat. alogue reveals that he was "no more than 3ft 4in". Still, this doesn't necessarily make him the shortest English monarch. I shouldn't have thought that Queen Victoria or, indeed, the present incumbent would have to bend too much to negotiate a lintel at that height. Of course, it should be borne in mind that Charles I's dimensions changed following his appointment with the axeman nn 30 January 1649. After that, his claim in the title of short-

I SOMEHOW found time in my crowded schedule to see my old pals at the Old Royal Observatory for a sampling of its Greenwich Meridian 2000 range of wines and spirits, soon appearing at a supermarket near you. Though the two dozen wines were initially intended to represent each of the international time-zones, this proved a little tricky The only land mass on zunc 10, for example, is a chunk of Greenland, scarcely renowned for the tinesse of its vintages, while zone 2 is Alaska.

est monarch is incontestable.

By my estimation, the Greenwich grog covers only seven time-zones, but it has the compensation of being eminently quaffable sparticularly the Scotch). It is, however, to be hoped that our official clock-watchers don't get too much of a taste for the official millennium hooch. After 75 years, the time signal wouldn't sound the same as: Pip, pip, pip. pip. hick!

SPIRIT OF THE AGE

PAUL VALLELY

Take the third way to nirvana

THE SPECTRAL figures moved noise-lessly through the darkness into the elegant Georgian drawing-room. It was just before daybreak as they settled, cross-legged or kneeling, on their cushions and mats, drawing blankets and shawls around their shoulders, for their long meditation. The smell of the wick of a single lighted candle drifted through the air as the breathing settled and the rosy streak of the new dawn slowly lit the room.

This was Sharpham College for **Buddhist Studies and Contemporary** Enquiry, which has its home in a Palladian mansion on the banks of the river Dart in Devon. Its director spent seven years as a Tibetan Buddhist monk and three more in a Korean Zen monastery, but he is an Englishman, Stepben Batchelor, a scholar in

classical Tibetan, Sanskrit and Pali. In Britain today there are several traditional Buddhist monasteries, which seek to create islands of Eastern orthodoxy in a sea of Western secularism. But Sharpham is different. It looks for a middle way between the dogmatism found in the ancient Asian traditions and the rational objectivity of Western scepticism. It offers a Buddhism without beliefs - just the kind of thing that Glenn Hoddle might have found handy this week when he hlundered into the oriental minefield which is the doctrine of karma.

Batchelor's great project, which has caused a major stir among mainstream Buddhists across the world, has

executioners holding her

Buddha from the metaphysics of the Hindu culture into which the Buddha was born - aspects of which, despite his radicalism in other areas, he simply accepted. "The Buddha offered a method," says Batchelor, who is an expert in the Zen, Tibetan and Theravada traditions. "But he took Hindu cosmology for granted - the assumphion that the earth is flat; the idea of samsara, the endless cycle of birth and death." Batchelor's insistence is that you don't have to accept Asian cultural which, quintessentially, is a technique

for living rather than a belief system. Christ was that all life is unsatisfactory and that the cause of this is craving or desire. Therefore, the cessation of desire will bring about unlimited happiness (nirvana). He then set out an eight-fold path of moral, ethical and spiritual guidelines to achieving this.

This, Batchelor insists, is the real attraction of Buddhism, not the exotic exuberance of the robes, ritual and chanting that lured the great trek of Western youth to the hippie Himalayas. He should know. He was one of them. "That Sixties sub-culture, with its psychotropic drugs, gave people the experience, however elusive, that one doesn't have to inhabit the world of common sense," he says. "But it goes back much further than that."

It goes back to the Enlightenment, consequences - then becomes a mere many Westerners, as was evident from

been to separate the techniques of the of course, when the Western psyche was rent asunder into the dualism of rationalism and romanticism. By the Sixties, the romantic impulse had declared that materialism, science and progress had - by jettisoning intuition created a spiritual vacuum. They went East to recapture it.

"Tibet took on the motheriode of that projection; the last place to be mapped. it was seen as the last outpost of spiritual values which had resisted the incursions of the corrupt and degenerate West," says Batchelor, as we stride norms to benefit from Buddhism across the muddy fields of the 500-acre farm in which the college is set. "Tibetan Buddhism acts as a huge magnet The great insight which the Buddha for those of such a frame of mind. It has formulated some 500 years before a mesmeric effect - Westerners are certain point, the tide begins to turn; in the end I realised I was still Stephen Batchelor who was born in Watford, and couldn't live with the split identity."

The result is the stripped-down, remade version be sets out in his international best-seller, Buddhism Without Beliefs. It does not reject the central notion of rebirth, so much as redefine it. On life after death, be adopts the agnostic position of saying that we simply don't know. On rebirth, he says the concept does not necessarily imply a continuation of our personality, but only of the force of life in the cycle of nature. The notion of karma - which insists, as Glenn Hoddle knows all too well, that actions have



The Buddha sought to end desire and bring enlightenment

mystified and fascinated. But, at a statement of fact, rather than of moral culpability. Had Hoddle been able to separate metaphysics from morality so neatly, he might still be the England coach.

Traditionalist Buddhists are indignant at all this. Remove the brick of reincarnation and the moral edifice collapses, they insist. "Batchelor is ready to cast away too much that is integral," says one critic, the Venerable Bhikkhu Bodhi, president of the Buddhist Publication Society of Sri Lanka. The result, be says, is simplistic: "The ultimate outcome of such concessions could be a psychologically oriented humanism tinged with Buddhist philo-

sophy and a meditative mood." That, of course, is its very appeal to the conversations of the students at Sharpham, who were typical of the profile of the modern European Buddhist - independent professionals, aged mainly 30 to 45, who grew up in homes without any religious affiliation.

"It appeals to the modern sense of pragmatism," says Batchelor. "They are not asked to believe, only to do to sit and watch their hreath and see what happens." That may open the door to a world in which they can detect an inkling of something that car't be expressed in words - the mystical, ineffable, subtler, deeper truth that some would call God. Or they may just learn how, in a hectic, driven, compulsive life, just to sit still, walk more slowly and pay more attention to the here and now. "Either way," says Stepben Batchelor.

DAYS LIKE THESE

8 FEBRUARY 1956

JAMES THURBER (pictured), American humorist, writes to Wolcott Gibbs

Dear Wolcott, I'm writing

this in my office in The New Yorker, through whose corridors, Time magazine said 15 years ago, I often walked, an aged gray-eyed respected ghost. The aged and gray are still true, but it's hard to tell around here about respect anymore, or its kindred feelings. [The editor, Haroldl Ross used to send a note reading, Jesus Christ, that was a swell piece.' All you get now, if you insist on finding out what happened to a manuscript, is a telegram saying. Piece bought, money deposited'. A month ago they rejected a piece of mine with the highest and warmest and most complete praise I have

got since Ross died. It seems that you should show up around here at least once a year to break the legend... that no one is allowed into your office and that it remains exactly as you left it last time you were



here - the copy of The New York Times lying carelessly in a chair, the little clock on the desk stopped, the coffee cup from Schrafft's still partly filled with the coffee of 1953 or whenever it was. "

8 February 1586

ROBERT WYNKFIELDE describes the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots at Fotheringay Castle

"Groping for the block, she laid down her head, putting ber chin over the block with both her hands, which, bolding there still, had been cut off had they not been espied. Then, lying very still upon the block, one of the

slightly with one of his hands, she endured two strokes of the other executioner with an axe, she making very small noise or none at all, and not stirring any part of her from the place where she lay: and so the executioner cut off her head, saving one little gristle. which being cut asunder he lift up her head to the view of all the assembly. Then, her dress of lawn falling from off her head, it appeared as grey as one of threescore and ten years old, polled very short, her face in a moment being so much altered from the form she had when she was alive, as few could remember her from her dead face. Her lips stirred up and down for a quarter of an hour after ber head was cut off.

Then one of the executioners, pulling off her garters, espied ber little dog which was crept under her clothes which could not be gotten forth but by force, yet afterwards would not depart from the dead corpse, but came and lay between her head and her shoulders."

IAN IRVINE

Do computers threaten liberty? THREE YEARS ago I attended a conference in Edinburgh on was a Soviet professor who

data processing, and there began his speech by asying that in the last 25 years there had been three great scientific developments: one was nuclear energy which at Hiroshima and Nagasaki shocked the world; the second was the discovery of man's capacity to travel in space, which thrilled the world; the third was the discovery and invention of the computer, which went more or less unnoticed, and which was the most important of the three

I entirely share this view because, when one looks at the future of our society, it is communications technology that provides the central nervous system of all organisations - governmental, military and industrial. Information is the new man-made raw material upon which all societies in future will live. The creation, the evaluation, the packaging, the transmission and the using of knowledge are going to be the basis for

man's life from now on. What we are discussing at this workshop is man's place in this system. and it is not a technical problem we are discussing but a political one. It does late and control those who are authornot require technical knowledge in order to understand what is happening and what the problem is.

We are not talking about a Luddite what purpose, where it is kept, and by think that the anonymity of modern



PODIUM From a speech by the former cabinet minister Tony Benn

at a workshop on the 'Data Bank Society' organised by the National Council for Civil Liberties (15 NOVEMBER 1970)

answer, but about the regulations and control by law of this enormous power. Is data collected openly? Is it collected secretly? Is it collected directly or indirectly? We must reguised to collect it, to store it, to use it, to transmit it. We must decide to whom they may transmit it and for

whom and for how long - for ever? How do you protect Sir Alec Douglas-Home from having his name submitted to the yippies as a would-be member, so that all the computers recording this hegin to identify him as an undesirable and dangerous figure? Who is responsible at every stage for this information?

If we are talking about the end of privacy, let us end the privacy of those who record the facts about us, and let those who are the librarians of this system have to put their imprint on each bit of information they store, so that later, if it turns out to be inaccurate, we know who put the inaccurate informalion into the machine.

The doctrine of personal responsihility has to be re-injected into these systems. What rights has the citizen got? Has he the right to know that information about him is being collected, to decline to have it collected, to be told why it's collected, who is collecting it and how long it is to be collected? What damages might be paid to a man for inaccurate information wrongly used? And whare do the government and the supervision of government activity come into the picture of defence and protection which we are now

considering? Two final points. The first question I would ask you is whether privacy is actually what we are talking about. I urban life is one of the most souldestroying things that has ever happened to society.

When you have created the totally anonymous society, then you pay for psychiatrists to listen to you, personnel officers to consider human factors. members of Parliament and welfare officers to whom you can write to break through the curtain of anonymity. Do not base this campaign on privacy on the sacred right and duty of everybody to live wholly separate from his fellow men.

Second, make it clear - and this is the political significance of what we are doing - that as a community we recognise the great potential and value of the system that is now at our disposal, and that we do not intend to surrender our power by default to those who have the information that, if abused, could take away our civil rights.

And do not be pessimistic about the capacity of winning this battle. I know that many people in this area get very depressed because no one seems to be interested in it, and yet all of the great changes in our society - the development of the trade unions. the welfare state, the health service. proper education and, now, the war against pollution - have bubbled up from below when sufficient people were concerned about the problem to demand an

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THE SATURDAY ESSAY

The next generation will be feminists in all but name



WALTER

Feminism still has a purpose, while men ignore domestic work and go unpunished for their sexual violence

EVER SINCE Mary Wollstonecraft wrote A Vindication of the Rights of Woman more than 200 years ago, people have been arguing that there is no future for feminism. and that argument has gained ground again in recent years.

After all, don't women have everything now that they have ever wanted? Aren't they free to fulfil their individual dreams and desires, at work, at bome and in bed, without discrimination, violence or fear? Aren't they even overtaking men in their confident, bright, happy lives? You keep hearing that the inequality that still exists is just a faint trace of old injustice, and it will soon be washed away without the need for any particular effort on our part. And you bear that whatever inequality still exists is a sign that women are simply choosing still to live different lives to those of men - and why should they be denied that choice?

There is a kernel of truth in this idea that wemen have come so far and so fast that they don't need feminism any more. Feminism won't have a future in Britain unless feminists come to terms with the way that women's lives really have changed recently, for the better.

This generation of young women is be-ginning to lead lives that are very different from those of their mothers and grandmothers. And this is especially true of educated young women. Girls are surpassing boys at school and university and moving into the professions in ever greater numbers. That educational success often spills into increased confidence and freedom in the way young women live their personal lives. And women have all sorts of bright heroines to look at, whether they are so young that they are dancing along to the Spice Girls, or are looking at Mo Mowlam or Kirsty Wark or Madeleine Albright for pointers on how to live in the public eye without fear.

When I edited On the Move, a book of essays about the future of feminism which is being published next week, I found that it was the youngest women who were contributing to it who had the most optimistic voices. Take the example of one young British woman of Nigerian extraction, Caroline Abometi, who is just 15 years old. "My opportunities are much better than my mother's," sbe says. "My mother was expected to stay at home and do all the housework and prepare to be a wife.. that's now changed. I mean, my mum's always telling me that I should get my educabon, go to university, and then I can start thinking about getting married."

Or take 15-year-old Karen Loughrey, who says: "Whatever I want to do, I know that I can go and do it, regardless of whether I'm male or female."

But this optimistic vision of women's lives is not the whole truth, not by a long way. It ignores the dead weight of inequality that still presses upon women, and that will shape even the lives of this generation of young women unless a real effort is made to forge a more equal society.

Feminism still has a purpose today, because feminism cannot cease to exist while women are denied basic economic and political equality, and while men are free to ignore domestic work, and are unpunished when they perpetrate sexual and domestic violence. It cannot cease to exist when, for too many young women, there



Women today have all sorts of heroines to look up to, ranging from the Spice Girls and All Saints to Mo Mowlam and Kirsty Wark

are no opportunities before them beyond poverty pay and lonely child-rearing.

If you want to know why feminism still has a purpose, forget the rhetoric for a moment, and just look at the facts. Sometimes it's hard to do that - hard and rather unpalatable to stare reality in the face rather

than sticking with dreams and fantasies. For a start, what does the reality of women's power look like? Women have almost no concrete power in, say, the political world, since even with the new intake of all those vividly dressed Labour women. only one in six MPs is a woman. They don't have any power to speak of in the business world either, since only four in a hundred company directors is a woman. Have women really chosen not to share power in Britain? Or have they found that the working culture in the most powerful places in the land still militates against

their full participation? When Caroline Abomeli, that confident 15-year-old, went out into the working world, she suddenly became aware of how this inequality might press on her own future. 'I want to be a journalist when I am older," she says. "I did some work experience at a national newspaper and there were some women there, but the editors were all older men and I actually felt pretty intimidated by it. I was thinking, where are the women?"

Those who admit that women haven't quite realised the old dream of sharing influence at the top of society often argue that in other jobs they are equal or even overtaking the men. They argue that only middle-class professional women are asking for more equality, and that most women in society are happy with their lot.

But outside the professions, inequality presses even more heavily on women. Women who work as shop assistants and cleaners, as nurses and secretaries, are rarely paid on a level with men doing similarly skilled work. Women take home, on average, just 50 per cent of the weekly wage that a man takes home. The low-paid in Britain are almost all women: 31 per cent of working women are paid less than £4 an hour, but only 11 per cent of working men earn such low wages.

When women have children, they find that the inflexibility of the workplace, and the reluctance of men to take on their share of domestic work, means that they lose out

relative to men: a woman who has children loses, on average, more than 50 per cent of the money she would have made throughout ber lifetime if she had not had children, but a man's lifetime wages are not affected by having children.

Do women really choose this heavy burden of economic inequality? Or do they find themselves trapped in a world of low pay and excessive domestic duties because of the outdated attitudes of their partners and their employers?

Those people who admit that working women haven't yet achieved equality will often argue that this inequality is still a pretty comfortable situation for women; that women are released from the responsibility of breadwinning, and allowed a more leisurely approach to their careers. They ignore the fact that for too many women inequality is not just about a lack of promotion, it is about poverty. More women than men live on benefits, both when they are young and when they are old. The vast majority of the 1.5 million single parents in Britain are women, and 70 per cent of them live on benefits, bringing up their children in real poverty. Their children show evidence of poor nutrition, low growth rates and reduced life expectancy compared to their richer peers. Can we bear to see the effects of inequality visited so harshly on these women and their children?

Feminism has not always been good, in recent years, at drawing women of different classes together Aminatta Forna, a writer in On the Move, reminds us that middle-class women shouldn't feel that they have the luxury of giving up on feminism before working-class women have benefited from it; and Livi Michael a novelist, argues that working-class women have often felt alienated from the old feminism that put more emphasis on women's relationship to their bodies than on their material equality. The view of Forna and Michael, with which I agree, is that women do not have to be identical to one another in order to work together.

Despite all the work that feminism still has to do, many people see little future for it because they observe that it is no longer a unified movement with one banner, one voice and one demonstration. It is true that the women's movement has fragmented and splintered. But that

doesn't mean that its force has dissipated. Splinters of it are now lodged in the hearts and minds of almost every woman, and man, in Britain.

You can bear feminist ideas from singers, journalists, MPs, activists, actors, lawyers, and women working unpaid at home. Feminism is no longer confined to one group in society. And, because of this, feminists can find themselves more powerful, working in the mainstream with people from all walks of life.

For instance, in their campaigns to ensure that men are brought to justice for sexual violence, the activists at Women Against Rape find that lawyers. MPs and journalists on newspapers including The Independent and the Duily Mail will take on their ideas for reform. And that can bring success - only six years ago, rape in marriage was made a crime, and in this parliament, measures are being debated to reduce the victimisation in court of women who have experienced rape. Similarly, in their campaigns for more

flexible and family-friendly working practices, the activists at New Ways to Work find that women in unions, and civil servants, are working along the same lines that they are, and - as the Government's new proposals on increased maternity leave and parental leave show - that can create real change. The fact that feminism has now fragmented and entered the mainstream does not mean that it has lost its power, its passion and its drive to change society.

Another great change in feminism, one that will gain ground in the coming years, is that men are beginning to see how fem-inism can spell opportunities for them, as well as losses. Equality in the workplace does not just mean taking power away from men, since it also gives them new choices. It releases fathers from the necessity of being the main breadwinner and gives them the freedom to participate with the upbringing of their children.

Although men have been slow at changing their behaviour to take on domestic roles, those changes are beginning: young men tell survey-takers that they want to be more involved in parenting than their fathers were, and that they believe that domestic work should be shared between men and women. At the moment, rhetoric still outrums reality, but as the 20th century was characterised by the movement of women into the workplace, the 21st century will be characterised by the movement of men into the home. Now, feminism can be seen not as a battle between women and men, but as a movement in which both sexes can join together to move towards equality.

If we can characterise feminism today as an ideology that has been taken up by women and men in all walks of life, we still have to ask: are there real goals for feminism now? I believe that there are, and that they lie in four main areas. First, in achieving equality at work: measures such as the minimum wage, family-friendly working practices, child-care provision and stronger measures for equal pay must be brought in to create more equality between women and men at work. Second, in supporting women in poverty, above all increasing the income of women who are living on benefits with children. Third, in encouraging men in their participation in domestic and family life, a change that requires a push for parental leave from the top, as well as cultural changes from the bottom. And fourth, in protecting women against sexual and domestic violence, by providing more support services, and reforming legal practice so that more violent men are brought to justice.

If feminists aim for these concrete and unmistakable changes, our future will be immeasurably enhanced. It's easy to despair, looking at the obstacles that stand between us and equality. But if you look back over the last 100 years, the changes that have occurred in women's lives seem astounding - from the movement into the workplace, to the revolutions in sexual behaviour and family life.

Is it so difficult to imagine that, in another 100 years, if we work to move forwards, society will have changed again? It is striking that many young women now are taking on the ideals of feminism, whether or not they call themselves feminists.

As 15-year-old Karen Loughrey puts it: "To me, feminism is about finding equality between men and women in all areas of society, from work to family situations. 1 definitely care about feminism, and I think a lot of people still do."

On the Move: feminism for a new generation' edited by Natasha Walter, is published by Virago next Thursday, price £9.99

BAROMETER

SEAN O'GRADY

Flying Squad Can't really see the Sweeney in this. But Devon and Cornwall's plods have

electric Panda car, the City-el (top speed 25 mph). This is not the first of such experiments. In the Sixties, one police force in the Midlands decided to use glass fibre Reliant Regals as pursuit vehicles. The episode resulted in the memorable coinage "plastic pigs". The question is: can you be tough on crime and tough on pollution at the same time?

Groundhog Day Sad news

Wiarton, Ontario. Their groundhog day festival

of 22, of their star groundhog. Wiarton Willie. He was placed in a coffin with his paws crossed. clutching a carrot, before being laid to rest.

Le Roi Soleil In an elegant speech this week. Paddy Ashdown described the Prime t Minister in the following terms: "We live in the era of the Sun King. The opinion that matters is the opinion of the Sun King." Mr Ash-

down knows, perhaps, of what he speaks. Louis XIV, for c'est lui, came to represent absolute power and his long reign (1643-1715) was marked by a curbing of the powers of the traditional nobility. Louis also left France with a legacy of high taxation to pay for his excesses. And there is something baroque about Peter Mandelson, "L'état, c'est moi." as Tony might say.

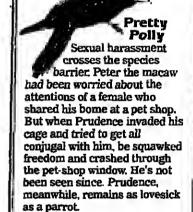


image of the week After 20 years, Playboy casino is reintroducing the hunny girl. New girls will attend Bunny School, learn the Bunny Bible. and live in accommodation called Bunny Hutches. This is Ava Fahian, who clearly has a gradualist approach to the bunny project.



Mackinnon: 'So far so good'

Arrived back in England late this evening, jet-lagged and flu-ridden.

I have just been to the Sundance Film Festival in Utah - a festival cofounded by Robert Redford which celebrates independent films. I am delighted with the positive response Hideous Kinky received there. I was a bit worried about how it would go down with an American audience because the rhythm of the film is deliberately meandering - not fulfilling the fast-paced, action-packed conditions of so many Hollywood blockbusters. Another anxiety was that the hippie aspirations of Kate Winslet's character might not be received with much sympathy by the more puritanical elements of American culture, particularly as

Utah is very much Mormon territory. I'm happy to say that all my fears were dispelled - they loved it.

Monday

I got a pleasant surprise today. The editor of my last film, Regeneration, called; she said she was on her way to the Canadian Geni awards (the Canadian equivalent of the Oscars) as the film has been nominated for 11 awards - nice to be told! Everyone presumes you already know because you're the director... but not necessarily.

I've been looking at story-boards and illustrations for a new project all afternoon. It's going to be called The Water Horse and will be set in my home country - Scotland. Like HK, it's going to be low budget and independent. I have tried working on mainstream big-budget films; I once directed a film starring Steve Martin called A Simple Twist of Fute and I really felt restricted by the Hollywood studio that was funding it. I think the advantages of artistic

MY WEEK

GILLIES MACKINNON, DIRECTOR OF 'HIDEOUS KINKY'

and directorial freedom offered by independent films far outweigh the financial disadvantages of having less commercial backing.

My brother Billy rang from Australia this morning. He wrote the screenplay for HK so he was over the moon when I told him about the Sundance Festival and said that Australian critics seemed to like it too. He's cutting one of the films in Tube Tules at the moment, which is a collection of short films set on the London Underground - God knows why be's

A writer has come over here from New York to work on another project which is currently in the pipeline. It is an historical film based on the story of Alfred the Great. We spent bours discussing ideas and putting a plot together. I

love this stage of development,

because there are just no limits - you

can be as creative as you like.

I had the difficult task of being on the jury for the Bafta short-film awards. We watched 20 films and selected a short-list. It was a real privilege to do, but excruciatingly difficult.

Later on, I wrote a letter to Kate. I think she feels quite exposed at the moment - after ber massive success in Titanic, everyone is waiting with bated breath to see whether she'll sink or swim in her next film. I wanted her to know how much people had appreciated her in the States - strangers were stopping me in the streets to give me messages

of congratulation to pass on to ber. Went to Soho House with friends tonight to have a drink and wind down. Slightly apprehensive about how the British reviews are going to be tomorrow, but so far so good...

Thursday

Did an interview for GLR today. Most of the publicity and promotions for HK have already been done, but there is a last-minute push as the film is on general release from

I am so pleased with the brilliant press reviews today. In general, I think they pick up and appreciate the mood and subtleties of Hideous Kinky. There was only one poor review - it suggested that the film came to nothing more substantial than a collection of boliday snaps. I thought it was the most meanspirited little review, totally missing the point of the film. Ironically, it was The Independent's.

7.30am start. Spoke to the producer Ann Scott about yesterday's reviews; she was in a good mood. I'm thinking of slipping in to a showing of HK tonight. I like observing reactions incognito from the general public. It's often more brutal, but always more honest than the glitz

and glamour of celebrity premieres. INTERVIEW BY JANE BOWERS

Scent of an elephant

It wasn't the best week to defend the circus, but Dea Birkett is smitten. By Kate Watson-Smyth

dom in the Big Top. Dea Birkett sat among the small of commuters on the London Underground, dreaming of elephant sweat. "I waited on Kennington Tube station thinking, 'I bet no one else here was working with elephants in the ring last night"."

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After six months following circuses around Britain, Birkett joined the Scott circus in Sweden, where the form has a massive popular following and the ringmaster is treated like a film star. For just one night, Birkett wore a gold spangly dress and led the elephants into the ring for their nightly performance. Her job was to reward them with pieces of bread every time they performed correctly.

"It was magical, I was breathless. I cannot describe how wonderful it was to be surrounded by these enormous animals who are so powerful but so gentle," she says. "I have always wanted to stand in the middle of the ring and be applauded by a crowd who are genuinely transported by what they have seen.

"The elephants caress you with their trunks and afterwards you smell of elephant sweat, which is really musky, and your clothes are sticky from their dribble, but you don't mind because the whole thing was so wondrous."

Watching the animals in rehearsal, Birkett became convinced

fter her night of star- that they loved performing. "Elephants are really very soppy and gentle, but they have moods just like everyone else. If they don't want to do it then they won't, and no amount of persuasion is going to change that. It's their call.

"One elephant, called Kitty, went off in the middle of rehearsal and starting looking round the edge of the ring for popcorn left from the night before. Nobody minded because they knew she'd come back when she was ready, and she did.

"The trainers love their animals and have a lot of respect for them. The elephant tent is just two or three yards away from the caravan where the elephant trainer lives. He is always there. When I first stayed the night with a circus troupe I didn't sleep at all; the animals are so close and you can hear them every time they move in the night. This closeness breeds an incredible intimacy between man and beast. You smell animals all the time-you never leave it."

On her first day at the Scandinavian Circus Scott, which is sponsored by IBM (a marketing team that alone illustrates how massive the Scandinavian circus is), she worked with Marco the elephant trainer.

"Everyone has this image that elephants are trained with sticks and whips, but he just opened the boot of his car and it was full of stale bread. I'd brought a packet of jelly beans but he said that was bad for



Dea Birkett: 'The elephants caress you with their trunks and afterwards you smell of their sweat, which is really musky'

Jenny Matthews

their teeth and they preferred bread. It's all part of the real concerns they have for the animals." The Chipperfield case which caused such a stir in this country is, says Birkett, an anomaly.

"I spent six months with circuses and I never saw any cruelty at all." She is convinced that the cruelty filmed by inspectors at the Chip-

perfield circus was uncharacteris-

country. They are being harassed

"I think the court made the right decision and I don't defend her, but I don't think that because there are isolated incidents the whole industry should be condemned. There is no doubt that the animal activists have won the propaganda war and circuses are under siege in this

tic of circuses.

House & Home

and hounded and treated like outlaws - but they are pursuing a perfectly legal profession and the activists refuse to have a reasoned debate about it."

Birkett has certainly spent more time with the circus than most

that animals perform when their spirits have been broken and they carry out the act by rote.

"The saddest part of the circus is the training, and that is the cruellest part. We have spoken to lots of exanimal trainers and they have told

'Elephants have moods just like everyone else. If they don't want to do it they won't'

opponents who hold equally trenchant views, but the animal rights campaigners question how much

Diane Westwood, of the Captive Animals Protection Society, says

us about it. It's likely that Dea didn't see any cruelty, but that doesn't mean there wasn't any behind the cenes. She wasn't there all the time. "People are beginning to under-

stand that animal circuses are

wrong. After all, in the 1800s people regularly gathered in their local market square to watch criminals being hanged, and they thought that was entertainment. Jan Creamer, director of the pres-

sure group Animal Defenders, which obtained video evidence that led to Chipperfield's conviction, says that no circus animal ever has enough space to live in. "Dea is seeing what she wants to see. The reality is that all the animals are kept in small cages and spend a lot of time travelling around. Even if the trainers do love their animals - and some of them do - they don't have the facilities to look after them property." But Birkett describes a coherent community centred entirely

on the circus. "These people live in

caravans for at least nine months of the year. If you ask them where is home, they say 'the circus'. If you ask them what is their nationality, they say 'I'm from the circus'. There are over 20 nationalities in one circus. If the Moroccan tumbler marries the French trapeze artist, their children are from the circus. Their notion of home is a community of people."

Sitting on the Tube platform in south London, she continues to feel an acute nostalgia. "When the circus moves on, every trace of it disappears. Even the holes from the tent pegs are filled in and it's as if it was never there. It's like a dream and I long to return."

'Circus Days Circus Nights' is on Channel 4 on Tuesday at 11.35pm

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Japan's most sinister cult is making a creeping return. But a tiny village is mounting stiff resistance. By Richard Lloyd Parry

Aum: the second coming

ntil the strangeness began at the very end of last year, nobody in Japan had ever really heard of Kita Mimaki Its British equivalent would be one of the less charismatic villages of South Wales or the Scottish lowlands - a scattered collection of farms and holiday homes on a chilly flank of the Japan Alps. The locals refer to their village as "calm". The most striking thing about the place is the overshadowing mass of Asama-yama, a ghostly mountain with a ragged peak that was created by a massive volcanic explosion in the distant past.

It looms over the village, dominating the skyline, and it is this mountain, as moch as anything else, that seems to have drawn the strangers to Kita Mimaki.

The first sign that something was up was mundane enough: a 15-ft high aluminium fence was suddenly erected around one of the village's vacant properties. In a Japanese community, where everybody is expected to know everybody else's business, such a drastic attempt at preserving privacy could only arouse suspicions.

Nasty rumours began circulating, so the village government hired a private detective to find out what it could about the new owners of the property, a hig, two-storey house in a large plot. The rumours turned out to be true. Now everyone who watches Japanese TV has heard of Kita Mimaki, and life in the village will oever be the same.

The villagers have dug a trench around the property and have put up a barbed-wire fence of their own. Specially mounted video-cameras keep it under constant surveillance, through TV monitors situated in an emergeocy command centre in a neighbouring huilding. And every day, around the clock, the property is patrolled by teams of 100 villagers, alternating by rota out of a pool of more than 2,000 volunteers. The aim of all this security is not to guard the house and its contents, but to prevent its legal owners from getting in. For, as the private detective sooo discovered, the true purchaser of the property was not the lawyer named on the title deed, but the notorious religious cult, Aum Shinri Kyo.

The impact of the discovery on a place such as Kita Mirnaki is hard to overestimate for, as undesirable neighbours, Aum Shinri Kyo have no equal. The cult was founded in the Eighties by a half-blind guru who calls himself Shoko Asabara, and its members embarked on a series of hizarre and outrageous crimes which for years remained unsolved by the Japanese police. As early as 1989, according to confessions by former members, they murdered a lawyer who had been acting against the cult, along with his wife and haby. A string of other killings followed, of young members who were trying to leave the cult. In 1994, seven people were killed by mysterious fumes in Matsumoto, s city close to Kita Mimaki.

The climax came on 20 March 1995 when, in an apparent attempt to hurry along the Armageddon predicted by their guru, his followers released poison nerve

gas in the Tokyo subway.

It was the beight of the morning rushhour: 12 people died and more than 5,000 others were blinded or fell ill. During the raids and trials that followed (the guru, Asahara, is still being tried, in a case that could drag on for a decade), it emerged that the gas used in the two attacks was sarin, a nerve agent invented by the Nazis. The cult's many chemists had manufactured it from scratch, in a series of "facilities" alarmingly similar to the property in Kita Mirnaki – isolated buildings in small villages overshadowed by another beautiful

volcano, Mount Fuji. "We know what they did in the past," says Masayoshi Mizushina, director of the anti-Aum headquarters. "What's to stop it happening again?"

When a party of about 30 Aum members turned up in Kita Mimaki early one morning last month to move into their new property, they were greeted by 500 villagers who had been summoned from their beds at tam by the village's public address system.
There is oo other way," says Shinichi



They shall not pass: villagers in Kita Mimaki keep a round-the-clock watch on the house purchased by the 'sarin' cult. Aum Shinri Kyo

Stuart Isett

Ide, the chief of the village's volunteer fire brigade, who stands on patrol in the snow. "This is a war between us and them, because once they get inside there will be no way to stop them."

And Kita Mimaki's problem is not unique. Remarkably, four years after its uniquely horrible act of terrorism, Aum Shinri Kyo is not only still in existence, it is undergoing something of a revival. Membership is up, its businesses are flourishing, and virtually every month brings reports of new property purchases. There is an Aum website, there are Aum computer shops, and there have been unsuccessful attempts at setting up Aum tuition services and, most fantastic of all, an Aum babysitting business.

The Public Security Investigation Agency (PSIA), the closest thing Japan has to an domestic intelligence bureau, has published two reports warning of the resurgence of the cult.

"As far as we can see," says Mr Kai, the head of the PSIA's Aum unit, "the potential danger represented by the cult hasn't diminished at all."

That Aum should even exist, let alone be in the process of expansion, may seem remarkable enough. In 1997 the cult was stripped of its tax privileges as a religious organisation; many people assumed that after it had been revealed (in sworn court testimony) as a murderous fraud, Master Asahara's followers would quietly disband. But the following year, those of the cult's leaders who had not been arrested

and jailed regrouped, and former members began to return. According to estimates by the PSIA, the group now has some 700 "monks" - active resident members who leave their homes and families to devote themselves to meditation, ascetic practices and voluntary work on behalf of the cult. On top of this are 1,500 non-resident "laymen", far fewer than the 11,000 members who once followed Asahara, but enough to provide a pool of free labour for its prof-

itable computer manufacturing business. The cult has recently distributed flyers around Tokyo; according to the PSIA,

still denying the charges against him. "They seemed abnormal," says Mr Mizushina about the cultists who turned up that January morning in an unsuccessful attempt to move into their new house. "Their eyes didn't focus. They looked as if they'd beeo brainwashed."

But an eocounter with Aum itself produces a very different impression. It is surprisingly easy to arrange: a couple of phone calls, a list of questions, and faxed directions to a house in suhurban Tokyo. Outside is a clutter of bikes and boxes; the door is opened by a smiling young man in

The villagers dug a trench around the property and put up a barbed-wire fence. The aim was not to guard the house, but to prevent its owners from getting in

recruiters have been active in some of Japan's most distinguished university campuses. It is in order to accommodate new members, according to the Agency, that it is acquiring property. "They look for isolation, space and mountains," says Mr Kai, of the PSIA. "High mountains have always been important to them, because of the spirits who live there."

Most creepy of all, according to the has to an acceptable face. agency the cult has bought numerous houses near the Tokyo Detention Centre, where Shoko Asahara meditates in his cell,

glasses and the white outfit, a cross between martial arts clothing and pyjamas, which is the Aum uniform. Inside the house all the windows have been covered up, and weird, spacy electronic music plays constantly at low volume. In a room packed

In March 1995, Mr Araki was a lowranking toiler in the cult's PR division; after the arrests of almost all the group's

with computers, files and posters of Mas-

ter Asahara, we are greeted by Hiroshi

Araki, the closest thing that Aum Shinri Kyo

leaders, he suddenly found himself a senior member. He is polite, shy, articulate and entirely lacking in obvious creepiness or insincerity. For four years, he has taken on the unenviable task of fielding questions and requests from the invariably hostile Japanese media. Aum's line on the sarin attack and other killings is not to deny that they took place, but to wait and see how the trials unfold. The cult's members still carry out what they call "religious training" - Shoko Asahara's personal combination of meditation and yoga, assisted by the use of bizarre "headgear", an arrangement of wires and electrodes that is said to connect the wearer to the "brainwaves" of the guru himself.

The teachings of "the Master" are still central, and he remains the heart of the cult. although his place as leader is now occupied by his children - his 13-year-old daughter, Rika, known by the Sanskrit name Achari, and two sons, Akiteru and Gyokko, aged six and four. The Aum posters feature these two little boys sitting in the lotus position in purple pyjamas, their eyes closed in concentration. "They emit light, and when I meet them I too am illuminated," says Mr Araki. "They are very special, unique beings." He and his fellow cultists are odd, rather pitiable people. They wear strange clothes, sing strange chants, and revere a man who probably ordered the cruel deaths of 20 people. But do they really deserve to be feared as they are?

Even Mr Kai of the PSIA will go no further than to speak of a "potential" threat

from the new Aum. "We've never found evidence of danger," he admits when pressed, "and we think it's impossible for them to cause the same problem again." For a start, and even if they are wrong about their phones being tapped, they are monitored constantly, undergoing frequent raids by the police, whose behaviour sometimes verges on harassment. Last November, an Aum member woo compensation after an incident (captured by chance oo video) in which a police officer assaulted him, and then claimed that he himself had been attacked. The failure to anticipate the sarin attack, despite oumerous clues and warnings, was the Japanese police's greatestever humiliation, and you sense in their excessive vigilance a desire to get even.

"I've listened to what the village people have to say and I understand their concerns. But it's the police and the media who are stirring up feelings against us, making people worried," says Mr Araki. "What the police want to do is create some kind of enemy, and draw attention to it. so they can create s scapegoat for society."

The true mystery of Aum is not what its members believe, hut why they choose to believe it - why, in such a sophisticated society, it draws intelligent people such as Mr Araki. Aum is not an alien, hut a homegrown monster, the offspring of late-20thcentury Japan. "All of us are thinking it's very strange," says Mr Arai of Kita Mimaki. Why does Aum have such appeal for people?" That is the most difficult and important question of all.

The one that wanted to get away

ENTHUSIASMS FADE easily when you are eight and, thankfully, my son Darcy seemed to have forgotten all about fishing in the excitement of Christmas and the holidays. It's not that I am particularly averse to this pastime - I try to encourage any interest that involves no violence, television or computers. But though dangling a line over the side of a boat or reclining by a stretch of cool water as the sun goes down may be summer perfection, matters are entirely different in the depths of a wet English winter. Few activities could be less alluring than huddling next to a green tent heside an urban pond on a grey day. So I wasn't about to remind Darcy of his love of fishing, for a few months at

leost. But I reckoned

without Greg, an electrician,

jazz fan, Chelsea supporter

and angling enthusiast who lives round the corner Greg had dropped by to fix a couple of light sockets, and we were speculating on why so many electricians are keen anglers, like the father of Darcy's school friend who sometimes takes the boys out for the day.

All this talk reawakened the angler in Darcy, and in the days that followed he took up the refrain, "Dad. when can we go fishing?" stalled for as long as I could. "You may not mind the cold, but the fish won't bite in this weather," I insisted, as if I would know. But last weekend I ran out of excuses, so we set off on The Fishing Expedition.

First stop was the angling shop, where Darcy spent a sizeable chunk of his personal savings on rod rests, floats, some hooks, some line, and a punnet of wriggling, pink-and-white

PARK LIFE

BRUCE MILLAR

maggots. We picked up some tips from the bloke who runs the shop, admired the photographs of regulars posing with their biggest catch in the front window, and pocketed various brochures advertising fishing courses and "Father and Son" family lessons at a lake near the M25. So far, I thought, quite a pleasant way to spend an afternoon.

Then, wellied and

wrapped up against the

magazine to pass the time), we set off on the five-minute walk to the pond in our local park. My expansive mood came to an abrupt end, as it tends to, with the words, "Dad, can you set up my rod?" So I began the achingly tricky task of fastening on the hook with fingers that appeared to have swelled to twice their usual size.

elements (and me with a

Now came the float another bodged job -followed by the weights, tiny split lead balls that have to be bitten on to the line. I lost a couple, but managed to avoid swallowing them. Finally, Darcy was ready to cast, and I rewarded myself by taking a perch on a park bench and opening my magazine. Daaad, the geese. Oh no, I've caught one." And there was a big fat goose, which had swum over

nosily hoping for a slice of

stale bread, now tugging one grey foot that was attached to Darcy's line. I grabbed the rod and pulled. The goose pulled. The line hroke.

As calmly as I could, I

repeated the whole settingup process, then returned to my seat and my magazine. while Darcy cast once more. "Daaad, the geese are back..." I was still reading my first paragraph as I sprinted, shouting at the top of my voice, back to the pond. "Dad, why are you

swearing at the geese?" Darcy inquired, hugely amused at my stupidity. As if they would understand! For once, I thanked heaven for the early winter

evenings. "We'd better go now - it's getting too dark to see." Darcy had only had about five minutes' fishing, but it had taken us all afternoon. Perhaps it's time to book one of those Father and Son fishing lessons.



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Alfred Janes

ALFRED JANES was an artist of great gift and originality. Born in Swansea, where his parents kept a fruit shop, he was one of a remarkable artistic generation from that town which included the painter Ceri Richards, the poets Vernon Watkins and Dylan Thomas, and the composer Daniel Jones, all of whom became close friends.

He showed precocious promise, always loving to draw and paint, and, after Swansea Grammar School, he attended Swansea College of Art, where, in 1931, he won a scholarship to the Royal Academy Schools in London. Janes enjoyed the academy at first, especially the drawing classes under the exacting eye of Tom Monnington, but the lure of modernism in the nearby Cork Street galleries proved disturbingly distracting, and he left the schools before completing the course.

He stayed for some time in London, painting in the succession of Chelsea flats he shared with William Scott, his closest friend at the Academy Schools, and later with Dylan Thomas and Mervyn Levy. These were Depression years: hard times but happy times, spent in unforgettable company. In 1934 he painted his first portrait of Thomas, now in the collection of the National Museum of Wales. It remains the best portrait of the poet, cooler and less romantic than that by Augustus John, to whom by curious chance it owes its survival

Janes left behind the paintings and drawings he had made in his last London flat and most of them were lost forever, but not before Cedric Morris and John had collected a few. including the portrait, for an exhibition of Welsh painters held in Cardiff.

In 1936 Janes returned to live in Swansea, where he remained until the Second World War. During this period he painted a series of still-lifes and taught part-time at Swansea College of Art. The handful of stilllife paintings he made in the Thirties are among his finest achievements. They were painted with extraordinary precision and painstaking slowness, each taking many hours a day over several months. In a letter to Vernon Watkins, written after the war, Thomas ironically recalled this pace: "How is that blizzardly painter, that lightning artist, that prodigal canvas stacker? Has he reached the next finbone of the fish he was

faceted transparent screen, behind which fish and fruit are transformed into a mineral brilliancy. They are utterly unique in the art of their time.

Janes joined the Army soon after the outbreak of hostilities, but defective vision (of a purely mechanical kind) kept him in the noncombatant Pioneer Coros. On leave in November 1940 he married Mary Ross, "auburn-haired leading light" of the lively Swansea Little Theatre. an amateur outfit at the heart of the lively art and culture of the town. He was posted to Egypt, where he re-mained for two and a half years without home leave, working in a prisoner-of-war camp.

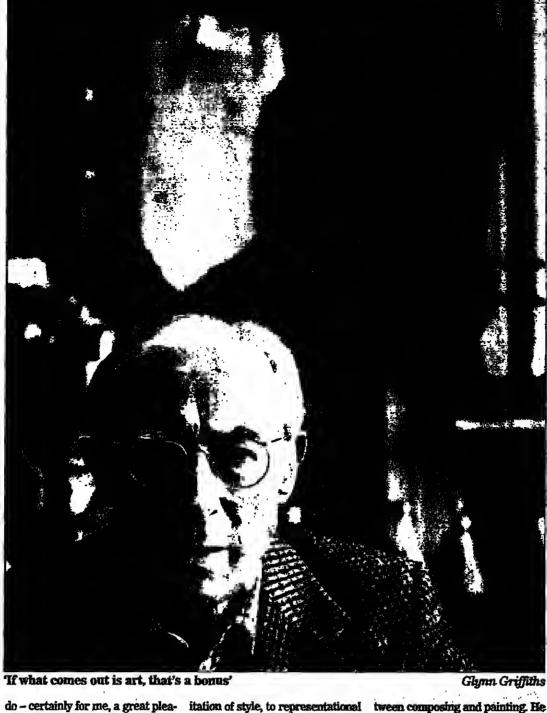
A gifted linguist, he learnt Swahili and, from the camp immates, fluent Italian. He became a passionate lover of Italy and the Italians, frequently visiting the country and maintaining friendships made in

> 'How is that blizzardly painter,' wrote Dylan Thomas, 'that lightning artist, that prodigal canvas stacker?'

the camp for the rest of his life. He made no paintings during the war. Back in Swansea in 1946, he returned to painting and teaching. Dur-

ing this period he made memorable portraits of Vernon Watkins and Daniel Jones, In 1953 the Janeses and their young son (a daughter was born the following year) moved to the rambling and then remote Nicholaston Hall, a hiliside manor house overlooking the sea on the Gower Peninsula, where he used the barn for his studio, and embarked upon a series of experimental works using sand, various oils (including Castrol) and bardboard.

The rigours of the country life, however did not really suit this most urbane of artists, and in 1963, invited to take up a post at Croydon



sure and a very great privilege." Down to earth and absolutely without affectation, he was an inspired teacher, remembered by students and colleagues alike with respect and affection.

At Croydon he was famous for the meticulous care he took to construct the still-lifes, placing fruit and fish, jugs and fabrics to most effectively test and develop the students' perceptions of light, colour and form. Fred Janes took to his teaching a formidable knowledge of techniques, learnt in his own experimental prac-tice and generously shared, and great theoretical knowledge of colour and of the psychology and

philosophy of perception. As painter and draughtsman as wonderfully able to catch The still-life subjects of these ex- where he lived happily for the rest at the likeness of life, to make a pictraordinary works are seen as of his life. Of teaching, Janes wrote, ture of the visible. Throughout a long through a crystalline glazed grid, a "[It is] perhaps the best thing we can career he resorted, without any lim-Richards, he saw close parallels be- died London 3 February 1999.

modes. There were the vivid paintings and drawings of his creative friends, and formal portraits of the famous and distinguished (lain Macleod, Dr Thomas Parry, Sir Ifan an Owen Edwards among many others) by which he made the occasional supplement to his teaching income.

In the Forties and Fifties there were satiric and genre paintings, and in the Sixties and Seventies photowork collages and perspex reliefs, in the Eighties be painted a series of dream-like shorescapes. But he was driven by a relentless curiosity, and his painting and constructionmaking were essentially a kind of research, a pursuit of the real. If this led to abstract experiment Janes happily followed it in that direction.

of the arts, playing the piano every day, and, like his close friend Ceri

was above all a committed modernist, his denial of signature style and personal gesture a critical and creative abnegation, as well as the expression of a natural modesty and self-effacement. He described himself as "a maker of pictures, rather than a painter". "I concentrate on the craft," he once said, "and if what

comes out is art, that's a bonus." Time will confirm that many of the pictures he has made are indeed art of a high order. His art celebrates, sometimes with the fronic wit so characteristic of the man, sometimes in comic mood, sometimes with a surprising poetic lyricism, the infinite variety of the world as given. **MEL GOODING**

Swansea 30 June 1911; married 1940 Mary Ross (one son, one daughter);

Philip Fielden

which come from housemasters at Eton, Philip Fielden's abilities were described as not those of a scholar, although he worked hard and had a great gift of concentration: "I have a very high opinion of his character. I have never had the slightest reason not to trust him implicitly. I think he has a very sane judgement: he bas great personal charm." As a soldier and horseman, fisherman and pictureframer, Fielden was to prove C.A.

Gladstone prophetically accurate. From 1937 to 1939 Fielden was up at Magdalen College, Oxford, where he rode and danced, joined the OTC and the Gridiron Club, was elected to the Bullingdon, and, in the long vacation of 1938, learnt German with the families of Lehndorff and Stein of Steinort in east Prussia. His experience of the Germans was that they "are law-abiding, but not sheep-like; they have high ideals of honesty and honour".

Here is an early indication of the way in which Fielden could surprise the unmilitary-minded. He had a good mind, which could be sharp and incisive. He learnt to express himself clearly, notably in his 1991 memoirs, Swings and Roundabouts. There he recorded going back to Magdalen to receive his degree in 1976 "in exchange for the modest sum of £7 (£3 for the degree and £4 for the hire of cap and gown)." Meeting someone older than himself he said, "I am here, sir, because my studies were interrupted before I could take a degree, by the Second World War." "Finny you should say that," he replied, "I am here because my studies were interrupted by the First World War" This was Sir Austin Strutt, who lived at Slough Manor: In his youth, he told me, the manor had been surrounded by wooded parkland. Now, he related wryly, at the end of one foreshortened drive stood the Odeon Cinema, while the back premises by in

At the age of 20, Fielden enlisted and in 1940 joined the Royal Dragoon Guards in Palestine, After exercises during which he carried on his saddle a rifle and a sword, the Royals were converted to the Marmon-Harrington armoured car, powered with Ford V-8 engines shipped to South Africa. After only four months' preparation in Cairo, they proudly drove out into the Western Desert in June 1941. "The strongest incentive that motivated us all equally," he was to write, "was a wish not to let the side down."

It was on 29 May 1942 that a direct hit in the petrol tanks below his feet led to a concealed injury from which he was later to suffer years of pain, ill-health and depression, and to the award of the MC: "It came as Koightsbridge had been a defeat followed by a major withdrawal." Herein can be seen two further personal traits, his courage, which was both physical and moral, as he was to prove as a stipendiary steward, and a natural modesty.

He was back with his squadron for the break through after El Alamein and recalled 1 November 1942 when they "leaguered in absolute quiet, a strange contrast to the conditions under which we had spent the last 10 days" and on to the cessation of hostilities in North Africa in May 1943. Thereafter he served in Italy, and, on 8 June 1944, landed in Normandy before going to Staff College in 1945. Here he discovered that he could express himself on paper with "reasonable fluency" as Swings and Roundabouts was to confirm.

After serving with General Miles Dempsey, to whom he was devoted, in the Far East, and then in Cairo, Fielden was posted to Berlin in 1947 and his subsequent service in the British Zone was lightened by race meetings and horseshows.

In 1952 Fielden decided to look for a horse which he could ride in the Grand Military Gold Cup Steeplechase and had the good fortune to run into Major Charles Radclyffe, who purchased Atom Bomb for him. David Gibson, who had won the Grand Military on Klaxton for the previous three years had to pull out. Atom Bomb won but, as Fielden wrote, "in truth the 1953 race was the nadir of the Grand Military; never within memory had there been such a small and undistinguished field."

The next year Fielden was third on Roughen, and in 1955 he won on Skatealong, all three horses bought in Ireland by Major Radclyffe (who

IN ONE of those perceptive reports hunted them with the Heythrop) and trained by Cyril Mitchell. As Tom Nickalls wrote in Sporting Life. Fielden was "a most capable horseman". A fourth success was in 1952 with Golden Drop which Fielden had in partnership with Captain Simon Bradish-Ellames.

From January 1959 until July 1961: he returned to BAOR in Germany to. command his regiment, the Royals. He had never been encouraged to think that his abilities would get him beyond the rank of major but now comparative greatness was thrust upon him. He benefited greatly from the support of his wife, Caroline. whom he had married in 1955, the presence of their two children, and the loyalty of the regiment which he fiercely reciprocated. The Royals were posted from Germany to Adea. and on to Malaya under his come

When Fielden retired from the Army Harvey Roscoe suggested he might become a stewards' secretary for the Jockey Chuh, "collocatal; stipe", which he did from 1962 until 1972 and the case histories which he records are still instructive even to those with little knowledge of racing. as in endeavouring to define why .

every jockey must be seen to make a reasonable effort to win or be placed. reasonable effort to wan to what is or is not a reasonable effort can only be decided at the discretion of the stewards; it will be a matter of

For instance, Fielden listed five

i) the horse should have the experience of at least one race before he is ready to be asked for the supreme effort, ii) that the horse will require one or more races before he would be fit enough to be, asked to go and win; iii) that the trainer wants to see your horse perform against horses with known form before he can advise you (the owner) to back your horse, with confidence to win; by that he may wish to give the horse a presentatory once or races so that he will preparatory race or races so that he will be ready to win when you return from your holiday in Bermuda: or, v). that he may consider the handicapper has taken the measure of your horse.

Sadly his account of the race, "Salisbury on 1 July 1970, Weyhill Stakes. five furlongs", was considered too controversial to publish. It was a tour de force "but events had moved for

out of the sphere of stipes". Fishing, pre-eminently for salmonwith a fly, meant as much to Fielden as horses. He first went to Norway in 1933, to Flak at the head of the Bangsund fjord, 40 minutes". walk to the river Bongo, where he acguired experience and confidence. He recalled the vast pool at the top of the river Bolstad which was "virtually unfishable". He loved the element of privacy, and deplored the over-fishing due to "greed" of which the Norwegians complain today.

The Slaney in Co Wexford and rivers in Styria, for trout, followed. rainbow trout on the Lago Yelcho, and Argentina on the river Traful Winter fishing in the Southern Hemisphere appealed, and, after two unsuccessful visits, he and his wife had "a week of unique fishing" for mahseer on the river Cuvery southwest of Mysore. They found good sport in Iceland with visits to the Hofsa, the Kjos, to Haffjardara, "a fine river with big fish", in 1987 and the Grimsa. Last summer, once more, they returned to the Cree in Dumfries and Galloway.

It was Julian Johnston who taught Fielden to frame pictures, to cut the mounts, and choose the mouldings for watercolours and prints. It was an occupation which he could pursue at home, in his beautifully equipped and presented studios, first at Hook Norton Manor (the Fielden family have an eye for a fine house) and, latterly, at Adlestrop. He realised that he had, after a year's apprenticeship, a latent sense of colour and proportion, two essentials without which a framer cannot hope to be successful. Thus it was that, despite adversity, there were more swings than roundabouts: to quote Patrick Chalmers, as he did, "What's lost upon the roundabouts we pulls up on the swings."

Frail he might be, but he never lost his personal charm, a twinkle in his eye, his sense of humour, nor his unfailing courtesy as a host.

IAN LOW

Philip Brand Fielden, soldier. horseman and fisherman; born Kineton, Warwickshire 2 April 1919; MC 1942; married 1955 Caroline Burder (one son. one daughter); died Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire 2 December 1998.

Lesley Maber

THE REMOTE village of Chambonsur-Lignon at the northern end of the Cévennes has become the symbol of everything that was finest in occupied France.

Elsewhere there was betrayal or simple acceptance. But in Le Chambon, as it was called, there was a resistance to the persecution of the Jews that recalled the Huguenots of past times resisting their own persecution. The commune of Chambon was Protestant and its pastor, André Trocmé, made it into a purposeful force. In 1990 it became the first community to be honoured as Righteous Gentiles by the Yad Vashem Holocaust Authority in Jerusalem.

Lesley Maber, who was English, was one of the heroines of Le Chamhon. Women were particularly important in the village. It normally housed a population of about 1,000 people, with perhaps double that number living in surrounding farms and hamlets. Yet some 5,000 Jews were sheltered there, and whilst some could be crammed into cellars and attics, many of them were scattered over a wide area. In the neighbourhood there were also resistance groups, particularly from the beginning of 1943, when young men took to the hills rather than be conscripted for work in Germany.

problem of communication. Food armistice of 1940 their numbers inand clothes had to be delivered. sometimes medicines and money and messages. This meant that there was continuous movement.

For men this was particularly risky. They could be stopped and asked for their papers, whereas a woman carrying food and bundles of clothes was not in itself suspicious. This was Chambon-sur-Lignon, where Lesley Maher found herself during the war years. She was a

long-standing Christian Socialist who had always been attracted to the Continent, particularly to France. Having been a pupil at the North London Collegiate School, she went to university in Switzerland and France, taking a doctorate at the University of Lyons. She was active in many educational ventures and in September 1939, when war broke out, she had

taken a "colonie de vocunces" to Le Chambon. She was uncertain what she should do, but she accepted Pastor Trocme's suggestion that she should stay there and help with the school, the Collège Cévenol, that he had created there. She helped with the teaching and with the boarding of boy pupils in her own "pension". The school had always had a

creased, partly because of Pastor Trocmé's reputation of opposition to the Vichy government's early anti-Jewish legislation, partly because it was an ideal place for refuge. Soon organisations for the care of refugees and other Christian and Jewish welfare agencies were establishing lines of escape through the convents of Savoie to crossing points into Switzerland, so that Le Chambon was also part of the process of escape.

Lesley Maber played a full part in the life of this community. As Magda Trocmé, the pastor's wife, used her boy scouts in order to keep in touch with everyone, Lesley Maber had her girl guides. She knew the dangers of her situation. She saw the Gestapo arrest Daniel Trocmé, cousin of the pastor. He was taken away, to die in Majdanek. She herself was arrested and put on a train to an internment camp. But representations were made to the Prefect of the department, the Haute Loire. When he learned how some years earlier she had adopted two children who had been abandoned by their prostitute mother, he ordered that she should be released. The order was received in time. She left the

world famous Hungarian sabre

team during the Fifties and Sixties,

Rudolf Karpati played an impor-

tant part in his country's domina-

tion of international fencing over

Games, winning six gold medals -

team golds in 1948, 1952, 1956 and

1960 and individual golds in 1956 and

1960. He also won seven World

and studied at the Hungarian Acad-

He was born in Budapest in 1920

Karpati competed in four Olympic

very many years.

Championship titles.

Therefore there was always a number of Jewish pupils. After the train before it was diverted to Germany and its passengers sent to a terrible destination.

She returned to Le Chambon and continued to work as a teacher, ourse, distributor of food and false papers, contact with resistance groups and all the other tasks that befell this resolute woman, who after the liberation of France in 1944 rarely spoke of what she had done.

However she was angered by

those whom she had helped write about Le Chambon (such as the American academic Philip Hallie and the film-maker Pierre Sauvage. when they suggested that Le Chambon was able to exist because of the benevolent attitude of the local German commander. It was true that some of the French police were particularly understanding. Another of Le Chambon's heroines, Madeline Barot, liked to explain how, when the French gendarmes had to make an arrest, they would stop in the cafe and discuss their intentions in loud voices. Half an hour later they would effect surprise to find that their intended victim had disappeared. But this comedy was not played by the Germans. Lesley Maber sought to put the record straight by writing her own memoirs, but she did not publish them (and she has confided



Heroine of Le Chambon

them to ber nephew, Dr Richard Maber of Durham University).

After the war she worked in a French factory, then returned to the Collège Cévenol, where she taught until 1971. Thus there were many generations of French schoolchildren and their parents who had every reason to remember her with affection. She was one of them, with all the qualities of devotion, courage and spirituality that are admired, whether one is French or British. **DOUGLAS JOHNSON**

Gladys Lesley Maber, teacher and wartime resister: born Crediton, Devon 20 July 1996; died Farnborough, Hampshire 6 January 1999.

Karpati, left, at the Rome Olympics in 1960

Rudolf Karpati

AS A member of the illustrious and emy of Music; he became a musicologist by profession, while continuing to pursue his sport. He dominated the sport at home, becoming Champion of Hungary prior to his international achievements. In 1965 he published his autobiography in Hungarian, entitled "Around the

World with a Sword". Although originally of the old fencing school based on the solid foundation of firm footwork and lightning but controlled parryripostes, Karpati very soon adopted a more fluid style. This enabled

him to deal effectively with the in Melbourne and in Rome in 1960 as emerging athletically mobile tactics well as at several World Champi-

of Italian and French sabreurs. Karpati was the model sabre fencer: tidy, wholly confident and selfcontained. He was always quiet and polite to those who succumbed to his impeccable timing, his extraordinary, efficient parrying was followed by ripostes no more complicated than absolutely necessary.

It was indeed an experience and a privilege for me to fence against Rudolf Karpati on several occasions including the 1956 Olympic Games

well as at several World Championships. He also kindly came to London in May 1963, along with three other international fencers, for a Gala at the National Sporting Club to help raise funds for the new Am-

ateur Fencing Association building.

Until comparatively recently the complicated nature of sabre fencing in which hits can be made with both edges of the weapon as well as its point - has prevented the introduction of an electrified scoring system. which has been in use for several

decades for the sister events of epée and foil. Before electrical devices, sabre required four judges in addition to the President, and consequently a very particular technique on the part of the fencer. With the advent of the new system, there is no doubt that we shall never again see the like of Rudolf Karpati.

Rudolf Karpati, fencer and musicologist: born Budapest 17 July 1920; married (two children); died 1 February 1999.

A. RALPH COOPERMAN



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THE EXPENSION OF STREET, SAFETY

Keisuke Kinoshita

ALTHOUGH AKIRA Kurosawa is the better-known film director in the West, in Japan Keisuke Kinoshita is revered as the greater genius, and the 50 or so films he made display a much wider variety of styles and themes, all

expertly handled, than do Kurosawa's. Kinoshita's work was a perpetual reflection of his whole philosophy of living, an idealism rare in the modern world whose ugliness and cruelty he despised and mocked in satirical comedies and heart-breaking tragedies. His aim as a director and scenario writerbe wrote nearly all his own scripts - was to preserve the purity and sense of heauty be had been taught to admire

While Kurosawa excelled in depicting male characters. Kinoshita specialised in sensitively directed parts for women, many of which were played by his favourite actress, Hideko Takamine. In her amusing 1980 autobiography, Watashimo Tossi Nildei ("Journal of the Way I Live"), she pays tribute to his inspired direction, but adds that he did not really like women.

In the summer of 1986 the first wideranging retrospective of his films was shown to an international audience, in the Swiss town of Locarno, I had followed his work from my first arrival in Japan in 1959, and so had seen a dozen or so of his films before he gave up the cinema for television after Notsukoshiki Fae ya Talko ("Nostalgia for Flutes and Drums") in 1967. When he was persuaded to return to film-making in 1976 for Sri Lanka no Ai to Wakare t'Love and Heartbreak in Sri Lanka") his beart was no longer in the subject, and among the four more late works be produced, the 1983 Konoko o Nokoshite ("Children of Nagasaki") was the only memorable one.

So the Locarno Festival was an occasion to see some of his early movies, which were a revelation. Among the best-known in the West are the oversentimental ("three-handkerchief") weepie starring Hideko Takamine, Nijushi no Hitomi ("Twenty-four Eyes", 1954), based on the popular novel by Tauboi Sakaez; and Narayama Bushiko ("Ballad of Narayama", 1958), based on the controversial novel by Shichiro Fukazawa, Another full-scale retrospective of Kinoshita's work is ardently to be desired.

He was born in 1912, in Shizuoka Prefecture, in the city of Hamamatsu, where his parents ran a grocery store. From an early age, be was crazy about movies, and it has been said that he was the only Japanese director who was born to the cinematic art. From the age of eight, his one desire was to direct films, and be rebelled against the attempts of his parents to make him

study for a university career. When Hamamatsu became the location for a new movie, a period film, the actors used to patronise his parents' shop, and that is how he came to know the actor Junosuke Bando, who ran away with him to Kyoto, then the capital of period film-making. His grandfather brought him back home, and his parents finally gave in to his ambition to become a director But Keisuke had to learn the art from the bottom up before he could even be considered by the studios.

So he worked in a photographer's shop in Tokyo, and entered the Oricotal Photography School, from which he eventually graduated in 1933. He at once applied to be taken on by the Shochiku film company, and started in the film processing laboratory, until he at last became camera assistant to the chief cinematographer, Yasujiro Shimazu. When the latter became a director, he took on Kinoshita as his assistant

Kinoshita later described Shimazu's working methods: "He relied heavily upon intuition, and didn't like to have everything calculated, and fixed in advance." This was to become Kinoshita'a own light-handed, easy-going directional manner, relying on last-minute inspirations and sudden insights into character.

When the Second World War broke out, he served for a while in the army, but was sent back to Sbochiku to write propaganda scripts, a task he hated until at last be was promoted to director in 1943. It had been a long battle to reach this position, but now be had to contend with the stupidities of wartime censors. His first script was rejected as "not sufficiently patriotic" but he had better luck with the Information Ministry when they accepted Hana Saku Minato ("Flower-Blossom Port") set in the southern port town of Amakusa.

He was allowed a generous 40 days on location, and 20 in the studio, and this first feature showed immense promise, There is a charming evocation of the picturesque port, and what was to become typical dramatic and satirical confrontation between the purespirited country folk and cynical city schemers, between youthful love and exploitation of the innocent by hardened criminals. In the end, purity triumphs and the crooks are defeated in a comic turn-around.

City and country are again contrasted in the 1951 Korumen Kokyo ni scarlet with nail varnish. The outraged died Tokyo 30 December 1998.



'Carmen Comes Home' was the first Japanese film shot in colour. In the tremendous heat the girls' heavy makeup kept melting and smoke started to rise from their pomaded hair

Kaeru ("Carmen Comes Home"). Hideko Takamine, cast against ber usual serious, intelligent type of young woman, plays a country girl who has run away from home to become a strip-tease dancer in Tokyo. She makes a surprise return home, accompanied by her striptease colleague, to give the natives the shock of their lives. The shock to the villagers can be imagined when Carmen and ber friend get off the train wearing high heels, fantastic modern fashions in brilliant hnes, heavy make-up and actually smoking cigarettes in fingers village headmaster played super-latively by the great Ryu Chishu, is gradually won round by the girls when they give a benefit performance to help rebuild his school

One reason why the girls' make-up is so heavy is that this was the first Japanese film shot in colour. In those days, great trouble had to be taken to keep constant lighting levels, and each actor had a different tone of make-up. Ryu Chishu's complexion came out looking rust-red, and in the tremendous heat of both natural sunshine and artificial light, the girls' studied make-up kept melting and smoke even started to rise from their pomaded hair. Kinoshita had to start shooting a black-andwhite version, just in case the final print of the colour film was a failure. Fortunately, it came out very well.

Kinoshita took the film to Europe where be stayed for a while, in 1951. He met René Clair, whose light touch in comedy be greatly admired, though he also was devoted to the works of Julien Duvivier and Jean Renoir - the latter's The River in particular, which influenced his own Fuefukignwa ("River Feufuki"), 1960.

"The Ballad of Narayama" is the only other Kinoshita masterpiece to have been shown in Europe. It appeared on French television in 1996. Kinoshita was a devotee of the traditional theatre, and wanted to make a film reflecting those ancient dramatic techniques. An old peasant woman, as ancient tradition demanded, asks her son to carry her to the top of a mountain and expose ber there to die, so that the povertystricken village will have one less mouth to feed.

There is a borrifying scene when she knocks her teeth out with a rock, so as not to be tempted to eat the food left to ber and to stay alive a few days longer all alone. Kinoshita's handling of colour is masterly, and his sweeping panoramic shots of the mountains are sheer lyricism. Kabuki techniques are imitated. with painted interior sets, use of curtains, transformations, narrators.

It was an epoch-making event in the history of Japanese film-making, and only kinoshita could have achieved such a sensitive combination of emotion and image, and such an inventive use of old dramatic conventions in a thoroughly modern use of film. This will undoubtedly be the masterpiece by which he will always be remembered.

JAMES KIRKUP

Keisuke Kinoshita, film director: born Hamamatsu, Japan 5 December 1912;

Nicole Douek, "Egypt and

Tate Gallery: Laureoce

Bradbury, "A Lessoo in Look-

ing by the Mysterious Ivan

National Portrait Gallery:

Valerie Holman, "Blooms-

bury Portraits", 3pm.

Victoria and Albert

Museum: Grace Lees,

"Dress and Textile Design in

the early-20th Century", 2pm.

Tate Gallery: Sarah O'Brien

Rodin and Gweo John", 4pm.

ROYAL VICTORIAN

ORDER

Victorian Order will be held

in St George's Chapel, Wind-

Thursday 29 April, followed

hy a reception in the State

Castle for all members and

Due to the limited seating

A Service of the Royal

sor Castle, at 11am on

Apartments of Windsor

medallists of the order

attending the service.

capacity of St George's

Chapel, tickets for the ser-

vice and reception will be

restricted to members of the

Royal Victorian Order and

holders of the Royal Victori-

an Medal only. Please do not

apply for tickets for spouses,

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Members of the order and

or other guests. Honorary

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National Portrait Gallery:

Tim Heath as Lytton Stra-

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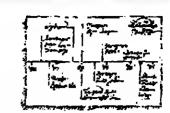
Esmeralda, 3pm.

Twohig, "CommenTate on

Nubia", 1,30pm.

Lermolieff", 1pm.

TOMORROW



HISTORICAL NOTES

Official secrets of the Final Solution

ON 28 JANUARY American officials announced that they had intercepted conversations among senior Serbian officials about a massacre of 45 civilians in Kosovo. This evidence they stated, demonstrated the need for an international war crimes investigation. It remains to be seen whether the announcement of near-perfect evidence of Serbian war crimes and the threat of punishment will work against Serbian officials. But open use of intercepted communications as a weapon against ethnic cleansing represents something of a reversal of the Second World War experience.

During the war Britain was able to intercept and decode tens of thousands of German police and SS radio messages. In 1997 the Public Record Office at Kew made transcripts of these messages available, along with some British intelligence analyses of Nazi operations on the Eastern front. These documents cast new light on the murderous activities of the German Order Police, which scholars of Nazi Germany had underestimated until the 1990s. New evidence also indicates that British intelligence bad recognised a systematic Nazi policy of exterminating Jews by early 1942, before this information arrived in the West from

other sources. The information British intelligence secretly gleaned from SS and police radio

messages, however, went essentially unused during land after) the war. Throughout most of 1942 Foreign Office of ficials tand their counterparts in the State Department in Washington), lacking access to the direct German evidence, refused to credit reports coming in through Jewish and Polish channels that Nazi Germany was systematically slaughtering hun-

dreds of thousands of Jews. In mid-December 1942, responding in part to other reports and to public pressure. the Allied governments formally recognised that Nazi Germany was pursuing a policy of exterminating the Jewish people, which produced a brief British broadcasting campaign to alert the German people to this monstrosity. In January 1944 the newly established United States War Refugees Board began to use other intelli-

punishment of those who took part or collaborated The "final solution of the Jewish question" was originally one of the great secrets of the Nazi regime. Officially, Nazi Germany was merely resettling Jews in Eastern Europe and using them for labour; deception of the victims was sometimes maintained until the moment of

gence about the Final

Solution and to threaten

mass murder. The idea of using information (combined with politicaldiplomatic pressure against

lites) to try to save lives dur ing the Second World War is not a matter of hindsight; it was done on a limited basis relatively late in the war. But the earliest and bost wartime evidence of Nazi killings of Jews - intercepted and decoded German messages - never was used at all, even though Britain did not have to compromise the secrecy ufits code-breaking operations. It might have simply endorsed other reports about Nazi policies that reached the

Government or the public. The opportunity for Allied military intervention against the Holocaust was limited. All the Allied powers faced desperate military difficulties of their own in 1942. Neither Britain nor the US gave much thought to military operations to rescue or aid Nazi victims until the Allied invasion of France had succeeded more than two years later.

But military action was not the only possible Allied response. If the Allies had demonstrated earlier that the fate of Jews mattered to them, alerting potential victims and rescuers, warning Nazi collaborators, urging neutral countries not to turn away Jews seeking to escape the Nazi vise, tens of tbousands more lives would likely have been saved.

Richard Breitman is the nuthor of 'Official Secrets: what the Nazis planned, what the British and Amer-Germany's allies and satel- icons knew' (Penguin, £20)

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

BIRTHS

LINDSLEY: To Clare and Ian, on 2 February 1999, at Kingston Hospital, a girl, Imogen Colleen, a beautiful sister to Phoebe,

ROYAL **ENGAGEMENTS**

The Princess Royal, President, the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, today attends the press launch of the Great Scottish Walk, at the Palace of Holyroodhouse,) Edinburgh; and, as Patron, Scottish Rugby Union, attends the Scotland versus Wales International Match at Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

TODAY: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Ham; No 7 Company Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Welsh Guards. TOMORROW: The **Heusehold Cavalry Mounted** Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 10am.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS tBirths, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniver-saries, in memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette annuncements (notices, annuncements tradeca, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at \$10 a line, VAT extra.

BIRTHDAYS TODAY: The Right Rev

Edwin Barnes, Bishop Suf-

fragan of Richborough, 64;

Mr Mike Batt, popular

music composer and arranger, 49: Rabbi Lionel Blue, broadcaster, 69; Mr Nicholas Brett, former editor, Radio Times, 49; Mr Peter Cadbury, former company chairman, 81; Mr John Flemming, Warden, Wadham College, Oxford, 58; Miss Zsa Zsa Gabor, actress, 79; Mr Tom Harris, former ambassador to Korea, 54; Dr Christopber Hill, former Master, Balliol College, Oxford, 87; Miss Gayle Hunnicutt, actress, 56; Mr Nevil Johnson, political scientist, 70; Mr Patrick McNee, actor, 77; Mr George Mudie MP, Treasurer of HM House hold, 54; Mr Denis Norden, writer and broadcaster, 77; Mr Manuel Orantes, tennis player, 50; Mr Ronald Reagan, former US president, 88; Mr Tom Richardson, ambassador to Italy, 58; Mr Mark Sheldon, solicitor, and former president, Law Society of England and Wales, 68: Mr Brian Simpson, MEP, 46; Mr Jimmy Tarbuck, comedian, 59; Mr Fred Trueman, cricketer, 68; Mr Keith

TOMORROW: Mrs Gillian Banks, policy consultant, Age Concern, England, 66; Lord Bellwin, former government minister, 76; Mr Eddie Bracken, actor, 79; Mr David Brighty, former ambassador to Spain, 60; Miss Dora Bryan, actress 75; The Earl of Cork and Orrery, writer, artist and broadcaster, 89; Mr Gerald Davies, rugby player, 54; The Earl of Harewood, former operatic managing director, 76; Mr Gareth Hunt, actor, 56; Mr Ian Jack, editor, Granta, 54; The Hon Peter Jay, writer and broadcaster, 62: Lord Keith of Kinkel, former Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, 77; Mr Derek Langslow, chief executive,

Waterhouse, writer, 70; Mr

Kevin Whately, actor, 48.

Engish Nature, 54: Sir John Leahy, former High Commissioner in Australia, 71; Dr Barbara McGibbon, pathologist, 71; Sir George Moseley, former senior civil servant, 74; Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, chairman, Kingfisher, 57; Sir Philip Myers, former HM Inspector of Constabulary, 68; Mr David Park, writer, 46; Mr Roy Watson, former directorgeneral the National Farmers' Union, 73.

ANNIVERSARIES

TODAY Births: Christopher Marlowe, playwright, 1564; Antoine Arnauld, theologian, 1612; Queen Anne, 1665; Ugo Foscolo, novelist and poet, 1778; Sir Henry Irving (John Henry Brodribb), actor, 1838; Isabella Mary Beeton (Mayson), cookery writer, 1865; George Herman ("Babe") Ruth, baseball player, 1895; Eva Braun, Adolf Hitler's mistress, 1912; François Truffaut, film direc-tor, 1932. Deaths: Thurstan, Archbishop of York, 1140; King Charles II, 1685; Lancelot "Capability" Brown, landscape gardener, 1783; The Rev Ebenezer Cobham Brewer, author of the Dictionary of Phrase and Fable. 1897; Gustav Klimt, painter, 1918; King George VI, 1952; Marghanita Laski, writer, 1888; Arthur Ashe, tennis player, 1993. On this day: Maximilian I assumed the title of Holy Roman Emperor, 1508; James II acceded to the throne of Great Britain, 1685; Britain declared war on France, 1778; Great Britain and Maori chiefs signed the Treaty of Waltangi in New Zealand, 1840; Crete proclaimed a union with Greece. 1897; the Boy Scouts of America were chartered, 1910; an Act of Parliament granted votes for women over 30, 1918; Queen Elizabeth II succeeded to the

killed in an air crash at Munich, 1958; agreement was reached between Britain and France on a Channel Tunnel, 1964. Today is the National Day of New Zealand and the Feast Day of St Amand, St Guarinus of Palestrina, St Hildegund, Saints Mel and Melchu, St Paul Miki and his Companions and St Vedast or Vaast.

TOMORROW

Births: St Thomas More, 1478: Thomas Killigrew, playwright, 1612; Charles John Huffam Dickens, novelist, 1812: Franz Friedrich Richard Genée, conductor and composer, 1823; Sir William Huggins astronomer, 1824; Dmitri Ivanovich Mendeleyev, chemist, 1834; Harry Sinclair Lewis, novelist 1885. Deaths: James Stewart, second Earl of Moray, murdered 1591: Jan van Huysum. painter, 1749; Daniel Nikolaus Chodowiecki, painter and engraver, 1801; Pope Pius IX, 1878; Adolphe Sax, inventor of the saxophone, 1894; Thomas Sidney Cooper painter, 1902. On this day: Edward of Caernarvon Cater King Edward ID was created Prince of Wales, 1301; while visiting the British Museum, William Lloyd smashed the first-century Portland Vase, 1845; the main group of the

Dead Sea Scrolls was discov-

ered, 1947. Tomorrow is the

Feast Day of St Adaucus, St

Luke the Younger, St Moses,

St Richard, "king", St Silvin

and St Theodore of Heraclea.

TODAY National Gallery: Rachel Barnes, "Love (i): Rembrandt, Saskia van Uylenburgh in Arcadian Costume", 12 noon, Victoria and Albert Museum: Sorrel Heshberg. "European Arts and Crafts", British Museum: Nicole throne, 1952; seven members Douek, "Empire Builders of

Ancient Egypt", 11.30am;

LECTURES

ticket as soon as possible, and not later than Friday 12 March, clearly stating their name, address and grade within the order They should also state if they require a parking permit. Application should be made to the Registrar of the Royal Victorian Order The Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood, St James's Palace, London SW1A 1BH.

Ian Paisley and other sacred cows

SOME PEOPLE have problems believing God exists. Mine is slightly different: I don't believe in religious. For when you look closely at the concept of "religion" it becomes almost as diffuse as the notion of "Anglicanism".

There is no single practice or belief which is always and only religious. Neither is there any guarantee that "religious" ideas have anything in common with each other - not even that they can all grow in the fertile mulch that lines the skull of a football manager. Yet the word is a useful one. It does mean something important to say that Europe is entering a postreligious age, though it clearly does not mean that we are entering an age of rationality for

even of unbounded credulity). One way round the difficulty is to talk about "organised religion" but I think this is just weasel-ish hecause organisation is one of the defining qualities of a serious religion, without which it cannot loog persist. We don't normally talk about "nourishing food" or "mothers with children" – and "organised religioo" is a similar tautology.

What makes a religion "organised" is more than simply discipline. The boundary between religions and cults may be obscure, and fuzzy, but it certainly exists. There are cults and sects which are far more ferociously disciplined than traditional forms of Christianity. There are some which seem to have emerged from that state to become full-blown religions: Mormonism comes to mind. But there is movement in both directions, as other fragments of established religions sink into cult-hood, like some of the wackier Pentecostal churchlets, with their belief in

divinely inspired leaders. The definition of a cult seems to have more to do with the relations between the members and the society around them. Sacred cows are part of a religion in Uttar Pradesh. But when you see them cropping peacefully in the Hertfordshre commuter belt, you know you have found the Hare Krishnas' mansion. Though the movement is organised, and a reli-

gion, its distance from most of Hamburger, and I don't think the surrounding society means that its white members certainly are practising what we might call disorganised religion. Sometimes, of course, this transfer into a foreign society can render a religion more rather than less benevolent. The heart sinks a little at Ian Paisley's missionary journeys in West Africa or Wales, but at least his followers do less harm there than in Northern Ireland. If I am right, and Paisleyism

in Cameroon is a cult of sorts. whereas in Northern Ireland it is a religion or part of one, this shows at least that religions are not necessarily more benifi-

FAITH & REASON

ANDREW BROWN

The difference between a cult and a proper religion lies in the ability to

found proper universities - which is why modern faith communities are not producing any

cent, still less benevolent than cults. But there is one form of organisation of which only religions are capable. It combines discipline, organisation and a healthy relationship with the surrounding society. The fact that it no longer happens in Europe summons up exactly what is meant by secularisation. The golden test is this: proper religions can found universities.

By this token, European Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, Confucianism and possibly Hinduism are certainly religions. I know there are American fundamentalist universities. Ian Paisley got his doctorate from one, but that's not the only reason for distrusting them. The US also have a University of the Western intellectuals.

that's part of a religion either. A proper university cannot be fundamentalist, since fundameotalism is a 19th-century reaction to the discovery that knowledge and religious truth may be incompatible. A real university can't be so afraid that it can only go out into the world wearing blinkers. A friend of mine taught for a while at an Islamic University in Malaysia, and found the experience completely stultifying simply hecause everything though or taught had to be checked

to see if it drifted into for

hidden territories.

Religions need more than unself-conscious intellectual confidence if they are to launch universities. They need money, libraries and learning have always been expensive, even if scholars are cheap. And they need the confidence of the society surrounding them. A university is not a vocational college. It's not even a seminary. It is something which is recognised to benefit the whole of the society surround ing it. All of these are resources which are beyond cults, almost by definition. They are certainly beyond disorganised spirituality. A university of the New Age would be as much use as a Hamburger University. even if there were anything solid to study there.

The links between Western

European Christianity and the

universities have collapsed at

most completely. I think that Cardinal Newman was the last man to attempt to found a religious university in these islands, and certainly the idea would never occur to anyone today. This is perhaps the most concrete meaning that can be attached to the idea of a postreligious society. This distinction has the further advantage of holding even in Eastern Europe, where religion is alive partly because its connection with universities remains organic. Which explains why a former Polish university professor like Pope John Paul II, who really believes that a university without religion has lost its soul thinks in ways which seem so completely alien to most

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

of the Manchester United

football team were among 21

Lost in translation

Michael Hamburger's huge contribution to our knowledge of German

literature - his versions of Günter Grass's poetry are about to

appear - has obscured his own reputation as a poet. By Michael Glover

In 1933, the year of Hitler's accession to power, a nineyear-old German boy called no fish in it. The heron saw to that.

Michael Hamburger, one of "The thing is," he rasps at me - he four children from a prosperous, uppermiddle-class Jewish family, left Berlin for Edinburgh with his parents and siblings, to escape from the possibility of persecu-tion and death. Little by little, the boy became an Englishman. He went to prep school, Westminster public school, and Oxford. He served as a humble private among working-class squaddies in the British Army - his father had received the Iron Cross for distinguished service in the German Army.

After the war, Hamburger, a dreamy, introspective, book-saturated youth, pursued a peripatetic literary life, teaching in universities, writing poems, essays. works of literary criticism. He also became the best, and best known, translator of German poetry into English of the post-war years, tackling some of the most daunting texts imaginable - the works of the 19th-century schizophrenic poet Friedrich Hölderlin, for example, and the poems of Paul Celan, whose intensely private and tortured holo-caust-haunted lyrics are some of the hardest peaks that any translator might ever be tempted to scale. Almost untranslatable, you might think - except by someone like Ham-hurger, who has devoted years of his life, on and off, to doggedly unpicking their monstrously tangled threads.

Hamburger is both proud to have served as a conduit for the great Germanspeaking writers he has translated, and also intensely irritated when yet another critic describes him, in print, as "best known as a translator from the German ..." In fact, he squirms in his carver as I mention the fact to him.

We are sitting, facing each other, in the study of his long, rambling patchwork of a house - part Tudor, part 17th century, part 1920s - just outside a village in East Suffolk. It is early afternoon. The light is bleached out, watery, already failing. He has just come in from the lane, having dealt with a steaming heap of horse manure. Just perfect for the grapevine, he'd said to his wife as be worked away with his shovel.

Now a cat is sleeping, idly post-prandisho edition of The Truth of Poetry and many see others of his books, all leaning sideways I be as if a little weary too. Beyond the bay window is his garden and orchard, all threefor. and-a-half acres of it, teeming with plum, to g mulberry, yew, alder, and, his great pride and joy, a collection of rare species of apple

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his is the story of a literary life, tree, including two that came from Ted Michael Hamburger's translations of the se-translated from the German. Hughes's garden in Devon – Devonshire lected poems of his old friend Günter Quarrenden, he tells me later, a dark red, almost purple apple. The pond, alas, has

> "The thing is," he rasps at me - he will be 75 in March, and though a little deaf now, manual work keeps him quick and sprightly when be moves about, bounding over tussocky grass, or zipping from room to room in search of hooks to prove a point or il-lustrate an argument – "they use all this talk about me as a translator as an excuse for not reading my own poems properly, and also as a way of disparaging them. It doesn't make any difference what I'm better known for. The fact is that I've been writing my own poems since I was 14 or 15, and for me, it's my main activity. Translating is a skill, something which I can practise the whole time, whereas I can't write poems the whole time." It's a hectoring

'I have separated translation from my writing. It has always been a kind of service'

tone of voice, a voice accustomed to fighting its corner. His fiercely disciplined hair sweeps straight back from his forehead.

A skill? Merely a skill? I query. Had it not in fact been a lifelong compulsion? (He started translating Hölderlin as a schoolboy, at the age of 16, and has continued to revise his own versions over a period of 60 years ...) And, what is more, hadn't it held him back; and perhaps even frustrated him, as a poet in his own right, the fact that he had had all these other voices clamouring for attention, and for imaginative space, inside his own head?

"No, not at all," he insisted. "I have separated it entirely from my own writing. To me it is, and always has been, a kind of service. It may have been a very strong psychological need though, as you say which is now less strong than it was when I was young. And perhaps that was to do with the fact that I myself had been translated from one culture to another ...

Suddenly, he glances down. as does the cat. "The family call her Cinnamon, but I just call her Pussy." He is careful to give that word two quite distinct syllables. "I don't give cats names." The cat, mildly disturbed - if not affronted - by this excess of attention, bolts.

This month sees the publication of

Grass - the very last project of this kind, he tells me. When he was younger, he felt that he had a kind of continuing responsibility for German literature, to translate it and to write about it. Not any more, though. He has translated all the poets be wanted to translate. Now his mental space is entirely his own. I notice an etching by Grass hanging on the wall - are those flounders moving in profile? They are almost too elusive to iden-

tify in the dying light of this room.
What is the one thing that all these German-language writers have in com-mon? I ask him. In what exactly does the Germanness of German writing consist? He'a completely stumped by the question at first. He doesn't want to generalise. He taps at the arm of his chair with a thick, horny fingernail. Then finally he begins to hazard a guess.

Well, they've always been found extremely strange by English readers -even when they were first discovered by the Coleridge and Wordsworth generation, and then, a little later, by Carlyle. And this strangeness has to do with their introspectiveness, I think. They were alienated from society to a much greater extent than their English counterparts. And they invented, of course, that strange thing called the Bildungsroman, which was supposed to trace the integration of an individual into society - as though society and the individual were two entirely different things, and you had to make a great effort to integrate yourself into it!" He gives a quick and harsh laugh. "Whereas everyhody in England always felt themselves to be a member of society, however much they may have disliked certain aspects of it, or criticised it, or been in revolt against it."

I wonder how much this applies to Michael Hamburger bimself? Is he inside now - or outside? Perhaps a little of both. Perhaps that is part of the challenge-and part of the affliction - of bilingualism, and of being translated as a child.

Then, our formal discussion over, we walk from room to room of this warren of a house, so fascinating and so strangely beautiful in its decrepitude, climbing up a narrow, dimly lit staircase so that I can inspect the ship's timbers from which the beams of one of the tudor cottages were boards of a 17th-century room. "Oak," says Michael Hamburger, tapping at it with the point of his sturdy shoe. "It's such a marvellous wood. It goes on forever." Wood as the final guarantor of cultural continuity in a disposable age.

There are books, books, heaps of up at 7.30am in the winter months, earlier on my way out of the door. Is the literary puperback by Anvil Press, £12.95



Michael Hamburger: Twe been writing my own poems since I was 14 or 15. It's my main activity'

of apples. Just look at all this!" he says. "Terrible!" This can't be things represents a life of thought, argument, contention.

envelopes, files of letters, here, there, still in the summer. If there's a poem life a mug's game? "I can't say," he replies. correspondence. He writes replies to letters on the day that they're delivered, quite true though. This rummage of getting them back into the post-box before the postman's had time to empty it.

Was TS Eliot right? I ask him before I

everywhere. And, beneath the shelves of underway, he'll work on it. If there's not, "That is actually what it's all about: you can

Michael Hamburger's translation of Gunter Grass's 'Selected Poems 1956 to 1993' is published on 15 February by Faber, £9.99; Hamburger's 'Collected I ask him about his pattern of work. He's hrush past five or six stout walking sticks Poems' was recently published in

ARTS DIARY

there is a fascinating new development which I forecast will spread through theatres across the land and give hope to life's understudies. The theatre, which has a atrict policy on not admitting latecomers until a suitable break, is to start giving the aforementioned latecomers a synopsis in the foyer of what they have missed. No matter what time they arrive, a staff member will duly give a synopsis up to that point. If only this could become common practice. It is a marvellous opportunity, a public audition, a chance to play the whole cast. "Now, at this point Ewan McGregor gives that sexy smile to the front stalls,

CALLING ALL actors

manqués: get down to the

Hampstead Theatre where

rather like this ... " Of course, it would have taken a confident female member of staff to précis the first 20 minutes of Nicole Kidman in The Blue Room: a true man of the world to summarise the latest Irvine Welsh. But these are challenges understudies should thrive on. And if the performance in the foyer is good enough, with a bar on hand as well, why bother to go into the auditorium at all?

THE NORMALLY effusive director of the Victoria and Albert Museum is in an unusually curmudgeonly mood this week, writing in the V&A magazine that "the press can, and usually will, misinterpret everything". I for one shall take his rebuke to heart and try not to misinterpret in future. I do notice that the large news section of the magazine which goes to the V&A Friends fails to mention one of the big news stories emanating from the V&A in recent weeks, the highly

embarrassing loss of some extremely expensive Constable sketches. But I must beware misinterpreting the reasons for that. It is no doubt due to lack of space.

SIR DENNIS Stevenson has provoked a timely debate with his remarks that modern composers can be arrogant and elitist. But his views have not gone down too well with modern composers. Stephen Montague, who is both composer and artistic director of the Society for the Promotion of New Music, has written to the redoubtable Sir Dennis, who is chairman of Sinfonia 21. in the strongest of terms. "I am flabbergasted by your ignorance of the current contemporary music scene," he says, adding, "I cannot believe that these unpleasant characteristics (elitism and arrogance) are any more prevalent in the composition profession than in your business community." Ouch! as they

IT IS a hazard of working in the arts that you begin to talk in artspeak: a tongue thousands in the country now spout like natives without realising it. This column will chart the growth of this exciting new language. One example came this week when Helen Carey, who is in charge of public art at At-Bristol, the new science, nature, art and discovery centre being built in the Bristol docks, gave a presentation on the art that will be involved in the millennium project. Even the underground car park will be artist-designed, as you will see, said Ms Carey. when you return "to

rediscover your car".

say in new music circles.

MONDAY'S ALL-BOULEZ concert by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Sir Andrew Davis was originally des-

tined for the BBC's studio in Maida Vale: a decision suggesting a sad loss of conviction. Roger Wright, the BBC's new controller of music, insisted on its transfer to the Festival Hall and the live broadcast of both this and Wednesday's London Sinfonietta programme at the Queen Elizabeth Hall under George Benjamin

Gratifyingly large audiences for both concerts provided an appropriate rebuttal to the view that few these days can be bothered with the more challenging kinds of new music. The notable absence was, in fact, that of Boulez himself: too busy composing, it appears. Wright's own illuminating interview with the composer was also televised on BBC2 late on Wednesday night: the first time in heaven knows how long that a newmusic event conceived by the radiohased team has influenced the television schedules. Perhaps things at the BBC really are looking up after all.

The extended elaborations of "Eclat/Multiples", which opened Monday's programme, seemed far too protracted here, where Davis's relative lack of experience in the "trafficcop" kind of direction this score requires also showed. Yet, while the BBC SO is not the orchestra it was when Boulez himself was its chief conductor in the early Seventies, this long evening gathered momentum. The Eightles revision of the early at times almost endearingly engaging but also

CLASSICAL PIERRE BOULEZ:

Only connect and all becomes clear

A PORTRAIT BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA RFH, LONDON

THE FRENCH CONNECTION LONDON SINFONIETTA/ GEORGE BENJAMIN OEH, LONDON

powerfully multi-faceted, "Le visage nuptial" - including splendid vocal contributions from Christine Schafer. Susan Parry and the women of the BBC Singers, as well as a huge orchestra - was notable for the control of its constant ebb and flow between lyrical effusion and volatility. After the

interval came "cummings ist der Dichter" and "Notations I-IV", the latter receiving a scintillating account.

The second half of Wednesday's concert saw the British premiere of an already revised version of Boulez's recent "sur Incises" (on incisions). Though the combination of three each of pianists, harpists and percussionists is enticing, the alternation of basically static and faster types of musical material in much cleaner contours, both texturally and formally, could not sustain my interest during

its now 40-minute span. Tha première of Gerard Grisey's 'Quatre chants pour franchir le seuil" **(Four Songs for Crossing the Thresh**old), also 40 minutes long, made the Boulez appear lightweight. A "musical meditation on death", this sets four

fragmentary texts - from modern French, Ancient Egyptian, Greek and Mesopotamian sources - for soprano (Valdine Anderson, intense and captivatingly lyrical) and an unusual ensemble of 16 players. Linking these extended, repetitive settings with the rapt rustlings of percussion, Grisey weaves an, at times, almost unbear ably moving course through his mostly desolate texts.

Despite the more diatonic oscillations of the concluding lullaby, the work nevertheless cannot ultimately bring much consolation. The composer's own death shortly after completing it must not be allowed to deprive us of more opportunities to hear his music in Britain than we had when he was alive.

KEITH POTTER

71111

A light touch

THEATRE

TWELFTH NIGHT

Sheals zooms into coquet-

NORTHERN BROADSIDES seem more and more at home in their Halifax base. The players wait for us in the mill undercroft whose cavernous spaces they render surprisingly warm and intimate. When we are settled they launch into an a cappella version of "O mistress mine": the

good life indeed. The show ends with its reprise, poignant as an embrace thrown about a play with the plight of castaways at its heart. There are the shipwrecked twins, Viola and Sebastian, but the sponging Sir Toby, scheming to keep Sir Andrew from going home, is forever in danger of being put out of doors. Feste's mysterious comings and goings suggest his insecurity and this production's final image shows Olivia's door shut against him. Malvolio, whose vocation is to keep an orderly house, ends up in a dark butch as a result of his overweening desire to be master of it. Even Orsino and Olivia urgency. In turn Livesey is 01422 369704; then touring

comically and touchingly amused and delighted to discover this evidence of her sex-

THE VIADUCT, HALIFAX ual power Surprisingly it is the play's are emotionally rootless. So darkest patch, where the when the decorations come gulling of Malvolio goes bedown there is a starkness youd a joke, that carries least force. Barrie Rutter's patabout Troelfth Night. But its beauty lies, of course, in the terned cardigan shows us the exact degree to which it is kind of stickler he is aiming for glimpsed through the prebut he always seems as vailing lightsomeness. There though he can take a joke, so is a perfect such moment the eventual cruelty of his baiting lacks pain. The balance here when Paul Besterman's Feste sings the heart-stopbetween him and Joshua ping "What's to come is still Richards's Sir Toby and John unsure... Youth's a stuff will Gully's hrilliantly credible Sir not endure" to Sir Toby and Andrew has to be a fine one; Sir Andrew, who sit glistening here the weight is too much in with the effort of concentrafavour of this two-man barmy tion so recognisable in sentiarmy. Together with last autmental drunks. The different umn's brilliant Somson Aponveins are visible, too, in the suistes, Rutter's production perb scenes between Helen shows how inventive and ver-Sheals's Olivia and Julie satile Northern Broadsides Livesey's Viola. At first pallid has become. with cultivated grief, the tiny

JEFFREY WAINWRIGHT tish sexiness as she encoun- The Vioduct, Dean Clough, ters the disguised Viola's Halifaz until 6 February,

Smoke without fire

FLAMENCO HAS an allure for British audiences that morris dancing evidently lacks. We love flamenco insatiably - and therefore the Peacock Theatre loves it too. With flamenco it hopes to alug the hale in the finances of its sister theatre Sadler's Wells, where not even sold-out houses could balance the cost of bringing the Frankfurt Ballet and Pine Bausch's

Wuppertal ensemble. So here we have, for a blockbusting four weeks, the Paco Peña Flamenco Dance Company, back with a new show, Musa Gitana. These days it has almost become the norm for theatre flamenco to incorporate a story or theme, and Musa Gitana invokes the life and work of the Andalusian painter Julio Romero de Torres. It is an attractive idea to project his paintings on stage and show film of the mosque and streets of Cordoba, where he lived at the turn of the century. His art portrayed leisured society on the one hand and

Gypsy low life on the other

DANCE

PACO PEÑA FLAMENCO DANCE COMPANY PEACOCK THEATRE LONDON

From this, Peña and Peter Bunyard have attempted to string some kind of scenario together about a conflicting duality, about the Gypsy as the Muse or Musa (Cecilia Gomez) and her opposite, the elegant

Dama (Mayte Bajo). The narrative is tenuous and haphazardly presented. The long scene depicting an Easter procession makes sense only if you know it echoes a painting not shown during the performance. The Muse is ultimately stabbed by her jealous lover, yet you could not tell this without reading the painter's biography in the pro-gramme beforehand. The company's leading male dancer. Angel Munoz, represents the painter, but I haven't the

faintest idea who the two other 6

Better perhaps to concentrate on the music and dance. Together they mirror Torres's two sides by alternating the desolate wail of flamenco with Ramon Medina's gentle modern folk songs. The nine dancers expand flamenco'a percussive rhythms and rearing postures with freer, broader shapes. In Mayte Bajo's solos these cross into ballet, as she unravels a series of turns, her bias-cut evening dress fluttering. Angel Muñoz looks as striking as on his previous visit, black Assyrian curls and

men are, black cloaks and all.

eagle profile intact. So why doesn't the air crackle with excitement? Because Javier Latorre's choreography rations flamboyant virtuosity and prefers a longwinded lyricism. Musa Gitana is in the image of Pena, whose own muted stage presence is the antithesis of theatricality.

I felt I wanted my damenco straight, with all its infectious cliches of noise and fire.

NADINE MEINER

EXIT POLL

VISUAL ARTS

PATRICK CAULFIELD

HAYWARD GALLERY LONDON

HI WILL WARREN

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CRITICAL VIEW

4 GOOD





OUR VIEW

DEADLY

OVERVIEW



THE DANCE EDWARD II

THE EXHIBITION ANDREAS GURSKY

THE TV PROGRAMME SEX AND THE CITY

HE BOOK ALL IN THE MIND: A FAREWELL TO GOD

Kate Winslet embarks on a voyage of self-discovery as she takes her two small daughters to Morocco in Gillies Mackinnon's adaptation of Esther Freud's novel.

David Bintley choreographs

the Birmingham Royal Ballet at Sadler's Viells

m a performance based

Digitally-manipulated

cityscapes, airports and

alpine valleys are among

the images on show in an

exhibition by the German

Sarah Jessica Parker stars

in C4's latest import, Sex

and the City, a new series

that follows the fortunes

professionals in their quest

for a satisfactory sex life.

of a group of New York

Ludovic Kennedy

examines the history

that God is a fictional

character in his latest

book All in the Mind:

A Farewell to God.

of faith and argues

photographer, Andreas

on Christopher Marlowe's

dark tale of homosexuality

and the struggle for power

EXCELLENT

"About as substantial as a joss stick." quipped Anthony Quinn, adding, "the film keeps setting up potential narrative lines and abandons them just as they threaten. to become interesting." "Hippy nostalgia. stronger on scenery than story," decided the Daily Mail, while The Guardian found it "likeable but lightweight". "While the

"It has been a long time coming to London.

but it was worth the wait," revealed Nadine

even if it is at the expense of choreographical

subtlety." "Fine, imaginative costumes from

Jasper Conran complement Peter J Davison's

sleek, yet monolithic settings," declared Time

"Gursky's pictures aren't trying to pass them-

selves off as normal photos. They're trying to

be super-photos, pictures that, through arti-

fice, are excessively good at being the things

a normal photo might wish to be," noted form

Lubbock. "The beauty of these images is tem-

pered by a pervading bleakness," decided

Time Out. "Gursky shows how the camera's

"Underneath the modern exterior, its view

of sexual relationships seems dreadfully old-

fashioned. Boiled down; it's a sex war, with

women looking for Mr Right and men for

anything they can get away with," observed Robert Hanks. "Wretchedly thin water...

Unreflective reportage that teaches us

nothing," reported the Evening Standard.

"Kennedy's book is not an open-minded.

exploration of the role of 2,000 years of.

European faith; rather it is a vituperative

wrote Paul Vallely. "It is not a work of

experience and reflection," opined The

philosophy, but the product of great

polemic against the very business of belief,"

Sunday Telegraph, "Perhaps some wavering

Meisner. "The action sweeps you up in its

headlong rush like a rautly plotted thriller.

episodic incidents show zest, they rarely fuse into something more substantial. observed Uncut. "A movie of considerable subtlety and intelligence," gushed Time Out, continuing, "it's a perceptive look at love, responsibility and conflicting needs. Spot on," "A small marvel," cried The Times. "Charming," revealed Elle.

Out. "Brinkley has made a tremendous

work... powerful, mature, choreographically

well-wrought," exclaimed the Daily Telegraph

"Bindley at his most expressive," reported the

Financial Times. There is much posturing in

ever-expanding resources can convey a vision

as unsettling and eloquent as any to be found

in the art of our time," trilled The Times,

unquestionably real." "More like abstract

"There can never have been a more cynical

TV show," bleated the Daily Mail, though

entertaining as a weekend in Manhattan,

remarked The Guardian. "One-dimensional

theists will find Kennedy's voice of urbane

join the A-team," remarked the Evening

Standard. "Blessings on his atheist soul,

Ludo points out that being a non-believer

Daily Record, while The Daily Telegraph

does not make you a bad person," said the

uncovered "a pervasive sprinkling of errors".

faculty just the call they were waiting for to

The Times disagreed, noting a sheen of

intelligent sophistication that so many

British comedies lack". "Busy and

characterisation," snarled Time Out,

paintings," muttered the Sunday Times,

of being so thoroughly staged and

processed, Gursky's images look

while the Evening Standard found; "in spite

the choreography [and] some of the blunt-

ness of the writing borders on the kitsch,"

demurred The Times.

More a series of snapshots than serious drama, Gillies Mackinnon's picture proves insubstantial. But there are fine performances from the two children and some dazzling Moroccan scenery.

Sensational set-pieces by Bintley

are given tremendous support

by his company. Conran's cos-

turnes provide an authentic air

of sado-masochism

every twist.

while McCabe's score

reinforces the drama's

While the abstraction of

painterly, the discernible

artifice of his digital

manipulations are at

once unnerving and

compelling, bleak

and beautiful.

condition. As

night in with

Terry and June.

conservative as a

Gursky's images border on the

The series is only interested in

the sexual mores of the rich,

glamorous and thin, offering

Kennedy gathers a catalogue

of Christianity's inconsistencies

and conveys his (dis)belief like

a true preacher, but

his proselytising

to take the book

banal insight into the human

Hideous Kinky is on general release. certificate 15, 99 minutes

Tonight's is the last

call 0171-863 8000

Andreas Gursky is at

the Serpentine Gallery

until 7 March. For

bookings and

0171-402 6075

The next episode of

Sex and the City can

February at 10,30pm,

be seen on

Wednesday 10

on Channel 4

All in the Mind:

bookshops

Ludovic Kennedy

is now available in

A Farewell to God by

(Hodder & Stoughton)

performance of

ON VIEW

BY FIONA STURGES

MADELINE CHURCHILL 18. student, Swansea

STUART MCLAREN

particulariy

80, retired, London "It's a fantastic

tion, I was

the lighting is so dull when they are such bright pictures. It is like

showing pop art in a dim light.

Perhaps it's to make us take mora

"It was good to see his work over time. I admire the blocks, the balance between

reality and abstract. It struck me how the shapes are sculpted by conotonous black lines, and it's as monotonous obset lines, and it is as if they are coming out from within the colour. You are tempted to go close to the paintings, but you also have to stand of a distance lo gel tho whole Illusion

MATT JOHNSON 26, illustrator, "I really loved it, the patterns, the

brie Liling max struck me is the nce of Juan Gris, the Spanish cubist pointer, which came and went. It is quite strong in the Seventies, particularly the way the paintings divide in to columns. It is a very graphic, powerful and unusual exhibition."

NATSUMI INOKUCHI 24, student, London "I was surprised to see English art using such modern colours, il

was Interesting on so many levels; how it incorporates architecture. interiors, and is very scenic. And i seems rigid, but if you look closely there are very effective tweaks in the lines."

A potholer's guide to time and space

THE VENUE for so many prosaic sce-the writer, John Berger, and Theatre narios (bodies burled under trains, bomb-scares, the malodorous intimacies of the rush-hour), the London: imaginary journey backwards in time. Underground has also haupted the and downwards in space, to the Chauimagination of poets. Both TS Eliot ! vet cave in France. It was here, in 1995, in Four Quartets and Derek Walcott "that paintings of animals were disir his stage version of The Odyssey covered which, dating back 32,000 have used the Underground as an analogue of the classical Underworld. But then again, you don't need to be a genius to feel that this location offers a pretty graphic sneak preview of bell.

Now, though, if you descend to metres below The Strand to the murky, labyrinthine innards of a disused tube station, you will find that the Underground has been commandeered for somewhat less gloomy reflections. A collaboration between

de Complicite director, Simon McBurney, The Vertical Line takes you on an images yet found.

A spooky combination of intrepid potholing and reverberating meditations on time and art, this powerful experience aims to make us feel the force of the past a limas asity, it typical observation is that as we travel backwards, the units for measuring time grow larger and larger, just as, in the opposite direction, units of money burgeon through inflation. The evening begins with saturation

THEATRE THE VERTICAL LINE.

ALDWYCH STATION

LONDON

bombardments by televisual images and ends in a tunnel of palpably years, constitute the oldest man-made dense darkness where we join in the attempt to recapture what it must have been like to break the vacuum seal on these ur-paintings, momentously collapsing the concepts of

"then" and "now". in between, chirvled by Lundon Transport safety staff understandably keen that no one breaks their neck, the journey takes in a huge circular shaft where spectral images of Berger lecturing on the astonishingly ageless Egyptian funerary portraits

from Fayum are projected on the lied to this assertion is the more obbleak wall. It also includes a se- scure notion that what gives cloudscapes which are shifting across It was the artists who submitted the barrel-wan'ting while Berger, to being looked at by their subjects aping the tones of a foreign corre- and so, by some hazy peculiar logic, spondent, offers a front-line report on Corsica 3,000 BC.

Alongside the attempt to deepen as over-baked. our sense of historical duration and of the continuity between the unimagtense of this event, the main philoit is naive to call the art of the cave painters "primitive". "The need to make images did not precede the tal-

quence where you lie on a line of the Fayum portraits and the animal mattresses on a defunct platform, like paintings their special time-tranfigures in a Licery Moore evocation scanning power is that the normal of the Blitz, and look up at lonely direction of looking was reversed. the pictures are like self-portraits. An idea perhaps not so much half-baked

All five remaining shows are, alas, sold out, but the curious can folhashy distant past and the present. low the proceedings live on the internet at: www.intercity.demon.co.uk. sophical point would seem to be that A piquant conjunction of the ancient and modern.

A version of this review appeared in ent for doing so," declares Berger Al- later editions of yesterday's paper



Down the tube: 'The Vertical Line'

Sundance rides into the sunset

-DID YOU go to the festival this year? You should have." This was this week's New York independent filmmakers' mantra. The festival was the Sundance Film Festival, so far from these film-makers' homes in Brooklyn and downtown Manhattan. Ever since Reservoir Dogs, Robert Redford's expanding, deal-crazy Utah film market has been under attack for becoming a celluloid bazaar. Redford's dingy cradle of "indie" film is now a Hollywood-on-skis. They call it the Cannes of the West. I've always stayed at home, though, and I imagine that

Sundance is like Prague now. This year, Redford turned permissive parent, both hlaming the media for the festival's corrosion and saying he would tolerate the event as long as it was good for the film-makers. The hot film was Happy, Texas (1999's titles alone are cliches of American independent film: Twin Falls, Idaho

A FRENZY of execution mania

-My Own Private Twin Peaks - and Happy, Texas - Paris, Texas meets Happiness). A major New York critic tells me that Happy, Texas is "sucky", but the film still reaped \$2.5m from

Miramax. Nooetheless, this week critics and distributors and producers defended the fest. They've reconciled themselves to the fact that independent films are just commercial films with denser scripts and characters. They've put to rest that nagging sense of betrayal when so many of these films turn out to be flops.

These festival-goers tell me that we should appreciate this event for its new directors, that we have Sundance to thank for finding Tarantino, and Boogie Nights's Paul Thomas Anderson and Slacker's Richard

But was it Sundance's boozy

NEW YORK DIARY



ALISSA QUART

hired entertainers Duncan Sheik and The Violent Femmes that made attenders praise the prizewinner Judy Berlin, a film about suburban melancholy, that from all descriptions sounds tedious and lardy? And is the honhomie and the sedoctions of the oew Stephen Dorff, Steve Zahn, such

a great find? Last week, I was at home in New York so I missed the Sundance hot ticket, a doc about a porn star/college student who sleeps with 251 men in 10 hours, Sex. The Annabel Chong Story. (Annabel Chong's publicist had to say silly things all festival, like "Tickets to Sex?". She calls the film's star "an overachiever".) Perhaps the film's star had escaped from this year's oew counter-Sundance Festival, Lap Dance, a porno film festival in Utah, like Slam Dance and the now defunct Slum Dance

Suzanne Fedak, an indie film promoter, says she wanted to go to Lap Dance when she was at Sundance, hut instead she was busy getting blessed by Native Americans. Then she danced to DJ Spooky. New York after Sundance she calls "postcoital". "You should go next year," she

Owen Gleiberman, film critic, has

one complaint, that the festival was "overrun with anonymous hangerson". He then says: "That's not to say that hangers-on don't belong there." Do those hangers-on, pressing into lighted Utah ski cottages aflutter with Afflecks (Casey and Ben), watching a film about the Beats and then listening as the film'a director praised the Beats for bringing blue jeans to the work place - belong? If not, why not? I am rold that a mark of a non-hangeron at Sundance is screaming amounts of money into one's cellular. One producer was caught in the aisles of a Park City supermarket - unaware that the film-maker on the receiving end was talking on his cellular phone in the aisle next to him. Maybe next year 1'll go to Sundance and be appalled by the stillbirth of independent film. I'll auteur/messiah-watch. only to return to New York with a long list of the year's worst "buzz" films.

Until only last week the penalty for treason remained death. As Marcel Berlins pointed out during Law in Action (Sunday, Radio 4), there still exists a set of gallows still in full working order, but when Jack Straw signed the Sixth Protocol of the European Human

Rights Convention the death penalty was at last abolished. Unfortunately things were different in the 17th century. After the fall of the republic, Charles II was restored to the throne and reprisals soon began. Solicitor Cook saw himself as a "good Commonwealth man" but this didn't save him from being hanged, drawn and quartered. Neither was Hugh Peters spared.

"His execution was very contemporary. "It delighted

WIN FOUR

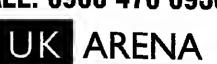
UK Arena, BBC/Flextech's cable and digital channel, is the UK's premier arts entertainment channel. Tonight (Sat 6 Feb), it is howing a night dedicated to stories from the Big Apple.

Called New York Night, the night kicks off at 6pm with a look at the life and work of one of the greatest composers of the 20th Century - LEONARD BERNSTEIN. Next up - take a look at the brilliant and eccentric world of the CHELSEA HOTEL in this classic documentary at 7pm. Footage from late 70's New York music scene follows with DANCING IN THE STREET at 8pm, whilst you can glimpse the vibrancy of New York life in a series of short films at 9pm - NYC POSTCARDS. The highly acclaimed film STONEWALL follows at 10pm and the night wraps up at 12pm with a story of the glamour and excess of the New York club scene - PARTY MONSTER.

To celebrate the presentation of New York Night, we are offering a lucky reader and a friend the opportunity to win a four night holiday in New York at the four star Franklin Hotel on East 87th Street. Return flights are with British Airways departing from Heathrow on Thursday 18 March returning on Monday 22 March. All you have to do is to dial the number below, answer the following question on the line and leave your name, address and a daytime telephone number.

Q: Which famous statue is located in New York?

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Calle cost 60p per minute and should lest no longer than two minutes. Winners will be picked at random after the lines close at midnight on 12 February 1999. The prize is subject to availability and must be taken on the dates offered. The prize is not transferable and no cash alternative can be offered. Winners will be responsible for their own passports, transfers, insurence and expenses. Normal independent rules apply. The Editor's decision is final.

swept across Britain a week ago on the anniversary of Charles I's public beheading in Whitehall. His pointy-bearded Majesty was given the chop on 30 January 1649, hut 350 years later it seems that some people are still prepared to draw swords over the matter. There was talk of "high crimes and misdemeanours and much blood" on the Today programme (Radio 4. Saturday as the latter-day Roundhead Jack Emery got himself nicely worked up about Charles's undoubted guilt. Goaded on hy John Humphrys be got stuck into the Royalists, at the same time taking the opportunity to indict ex-president Pinochet of Chile and also demand the abolition of the House of Lords. There was no question for Mr

Emery that the execution was

justified; the only problem was how to make the charges stick.

"We had to put together the machinery by which Charles could be tried," he declared at one point during the discussion. By "we", of course, he meant Cromwell and the Republicans, but it was an interesting slip. Shame he had to miss the trial really. He'd probably have enjoyed being there.

Instead he contented himself by writing Justice or Murder: The Death of Charles I (Radio 4, Saturday), a 90-minute drama documentary in which some of the great events of those times were reconstructed. We beard the radical Colonel Rainborow (Brian Glover) haranguing the army leaders in the Putney Debates, and the high, whining tones of Dr Hugh Peters (Anton Lesser) as he encouraged the regicides from his recognise the court and reminded

THE WEEK IN RADIO



MAGNUS MILLS

pulpit In January 1649 the king sat at his trial in Westminster Hall as Judge Bradshaw, Solicitor Cook and Cromwell himself began proceedings against him. There were some fine moments as Charles (John Rowe) refused to

them with quiet certainty that: "I am your King."

This was the main flaw in the prosecution's case. Yet there's something else that people tend to forget about Charles Stuart. He may have been a tyrant, traitor, murderer and public enemy (the charge that finally did for him), but he was without a doubt much

more interesting than most other monarchs, and for that deserves at least a nod of recognition. By all accounts his personal conduct on the scaffold was exemplary. Drowned out by the heating of army drummers, be tried to make a final address to those near him, but few heard. Then, after asking if the block could be higher (it couldn't), he went to meet his maker. Even when beard on the

radio, the blow of the axe was not

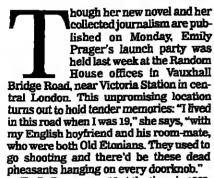
popular," remarked a

for the squeamish.

THE BOOKS INTERVIEW

The liberation of Lolita

Emily Prager proves that the best, and deadliest, things come in small packages. By John Walsh



Emily Prager was 19 at the time, in 1968, and in the throes of sexual liberation at college. Some way after the feminist meltdown of the Millett-Greer-Steinem years, she made a considerable stir in 1984 with her first collection of stories, A Visit From the Footbinder. It announced a talent for black humour elegantly combined with gender malevolence. "The Lincoln-Pruitt Anti-Rape Device" watched the progress of the all-female, shaven-headed Foxy Fire platoon as they are dropped over Vietnam dressed as nuns and fitted internally with a penis-shredding implement; the title story was a brilliant study in subtle horror, as a Chinese girl called Pleasure Mouse waits for the arrival of the man who will crush her feet into tiny cones to accommodate the tastes of rich Chinese men.

Prager spent three years of her childhood in Taiwan, living with her Air Force father after her parents' divorce, and there's an Oriental precision about her work. She deals in clever miniatures. Her prose is clipped. Her descriptions of people come encased in pithy details ("I met Boh Guccione once and I've heen to the Hefner mansion. What intrigued me was the amount of Tudor furnishing they had - the Tudor aspect of rich men").

Her happiest medium is the 800-word essay. Some of her clever three-page pieces about daily life in Manhattan for the New York Observer she describes as "little novels". And she is a decidedly mignonne ter figure herself, sitting in a leather chair at sel the Gore Hotel, Kensington, a slight, feline, nu pale-blue-eyed doll in spotty rights, with a very determined chin.

"In a way China is my motherland," she says. "The people really cared for me when I was separated from my mother. It was beautiful, although I lived in a street with open sewers and at the end of it were little children in terrible poverty and distress. But I understood the place. When I wit went back in 1979, I knew what everyone for was talking about, without understanding as: the language. It's no accident that my child arc is Chinese." Lulu Prager is also a miniatod ture, a late arrival in the author's life, now

Chinese designs, children, toys and a tiny gun feature in her new work, Roger Fishbite (Chatto & Windus, £10), which tells a Lolita-like tale of child abuse and abducfor hon but from a positive, wised-up 12-yeartog old's point of view. In this recasting of ree Nabokov's study of forbidden lust, Lucky for Lady Linderhofts no amoral nymphet, but day a serious and thoughtful kid, quick to spot cle: signs of dodgy adult libido; she swings bejori tween love and need for her fishy stepfakin ther as they take to the road, and winds up I had demonstrating against sex tourism outside bec the Japanese Embassy and looking for revenge with a pearl-handled shooter.

Prager bridled at my suggestion that the first half of her book amounts to 100 pages terest in comparing myself to Nabokov. I'm



EMILY PRAGER, A BIOGRAPHY

Emily Prager was born in 1949 and brought up in Texas, the Far East and New York's Greenwich Village. Her columns have appeared, since 1974, in National Lampoon.

of foreplay. "I was trying to show that chil-

Penthouse, the New York Observer and the New York Times. Her first collection of short stories, A Visit from the Footbinder, was published to critical acclaim in 1984, and was

followed by Eve's Tottoo and Clea and Zeus Divorce. She currently writes humour and TV criticism for the Village Voice and lives in New York with her daughter, Lulu.

dren are sexy in a way, that they are sex-12. Even if a child has hormones running ual beings - it only took my daughter one watching of the Spice Girls before she was through its body, even if it's coming onsaying, Would you do my hair like this?', gangbusters to someone, my contention is that they don't know what they're doing." and 'Can I have my skirt tighter?', and undulating around the apartment. But it's an Running through the novel are three adult's responsibility not to act on it. There strands of real-life moral contention. Lucky was no attempt to litillate. And I had no inis fascinated by moral talk shows (the kind fronted by Ricki Lake and Jerry Springer,

interested in what Lolita has become - the featuring sex-change revelations, two-timidea of The Child That Seduces. Lolita was ing boyfriends and near-mandatory fistfights between participants) and dreams of starring on one herself. "They started as freak shows," says Prager, "then they got kinda interesting with Oprah, and now they're vile, dark, murderous, horrible exhibitionism. I don't know where they get the people on these shows." She is, she says,

surrounded by stories of child abuse and

it frightens her for her child. Did she blame the climate of baby beauty contests and pubescent popsters? "I don't think you can," she said. "It goes right back to Lewis Carroll, even though he's been exonerated now - though not for me. Most Ameri-cans are terrified of strangers grabbing their children in the street one day. But the majority of child kidnappings are by parents in custody battles.

Like Lucky and the rest of America, she has watched the investigation of the murder of JonBenet Ramsay, the tiny beauty queen. In a nice moment of throwaway sophistication, Lucky reflects that none of the girls in her class thought JonBenet's father could have killed her - being familiar with the habits of billionaire stepfathers, they assumed he would have been too busy to be available for murder.

All Emily Prager's responses to queshons about her book are practical, non-literary ones, grounded in the real world. Though a stylish writer, she's more interested in ideas and paradoxes than the pleasure of the text. The 700-odd pages of journalism, collected under the little In the Missionary Position (Vintage, £8.99), display her talent for conceptual fireworks: they're pungent little satires on masculinity. tough love ("How to Tell If Your Girlfriend Is Dying During Rough Sex"), gung-ho politics, national paranoia, social fads like the Safe-T-Man plastic doll ("tricks people into thinking you have the protection of a male guardian") - and President Clinton, about

whom she is rather sweetly protective. "It's interesting he's done all these things that should hirn you against him, yet somehow... American women like this guy because they know he likes women. They know because he doesn't choose only beautiful women to go after. Looks aren't the only thing he's thinking about." But didn't that just mean he was sexually indiscriminate? "I don't think women think of it that way. Clinton didn't behave like a Southern gentleman, but he was no Gary Hart. He did have a real crush on Monica. He'd call her I1 times a day and leave messages on her voicemail. I mean, how naive can you be? But these are little details women pick up."

She is very funny about the idiocy of the male libido - the way, for instance, she no-liced men talking directly to her breasts when pregnancy made her bosom larger - and her early days acting in an American soap opera called On the Edge of Night in which, "I was always being kidnapped usually by the same actor.

A very charming and self-assured social commentator is Ms Prager. It's only well into the interview that you discover two key things about her. One, that her mother died only last week and that, for all their long eparation, she turns up in all Emily Prager's books. Two, that everything she writes is autobiographical - that Lucky, the abducted 12-year-old, is a junior version of herself, and the dreamy, alcoholic mother

is a portrait from life. Her mother was, it seems, sent on the stage aged eight to support her family after her father died, an appropriation of childhood that Prager talks about with a snarl, Suddenly, her mother and Lucky, and Jon-Benet Ramsay and Lulu Prager, all seemed to become her children, wrapped together in her wary maternal embrace, warding off the marauders, the paedophiles, the TV freaks, the chilly world of abused kids. In fiction or outside it, Emily Prager has found her métier at last.

COVER **STORIES**



SLIGHT EMBARRASSMENT at this week's WH Smith soiree to celebrate the shortlist for their 41st Literary Award. With Beryl Bainbridge confined with pleurisy, Alan Bennett poorly, and Julian Barnes and Will Boyd AWOL, it was left to Antony Beevor and Hilary Spurling to carry the flag Sadly, neither Becvor's Stalingrad nor Spurling's The Unknown Matisse is available to shoppers at WHS, except for those lucky enough to be able to visit its Sloane Square branch. No one even seemed sure whether the shortlisting would change the situation. Meanwhile, Hatchards alone has sold over 1,000 copies of Stalingrad while Beevor's tiny local bookshop, Nomad of Fulham has sold 100. Small wonder that many people don't consider WHS a bookshop, although chairman Jeremy Hardie this week said he wanted the chain to be seen as "a seller of serious books". But not a serious seller of books.

THE BRITISH Book Awards produced some popular winners on Thursday, Inevitably, Ted Hughes's Birthday Letters was named Book of the Year Author of the Year was a recovered Beryl Bainbridge, who received a standing ovation for a speech she said was "written for last year s Booker". JK Rowling and Raymond Briggs also had their moments of triumph. There were puzzling moments, however. Ned Sherrin, introducing Sir Tim Rice. called him "the greatest lyricist of his generation", Discuss.

SEVERAL PUBLISHING folk have written memoirs hut, while posterity is assured by the one copy in the British Library, they do not even reach bestseller lists in remainder bookshops. Now, the National Life Story Collection at the BL's National Sound Archive has embarked on a major oral history project, Book Trade Live. They must plck folk with lively minds and long memories so that what emerges is a red-blooded account of fear and loathing in Bloomsbury, detailing who fired, and who slept with, whom.

THE CITY of London is keen to dispel the notion that the closest its workers come to reading anything creative is a set of accounts. Businesses, including accountants KPMG, have joined forces with the Poetry Society to launch Poet in the City. The scheme, part of the National Year of Reading, aims to raise the interest rate in poetry and develop links between husiness and schools. John Mole, the first official poet of the City, takes up his post later this month; he will run workshops and "drop-in sessions" in schools and offices.

THE LITERATOR

The missionary imposition

At the end of a novel about misguided charity, the finger-wagging starts.

Enjoy the story, advises Carol Birch, and skip the lessons

1 WE CAME from Bethlehem, ter Georgia bearing Betty Crocker tim cake mixes into the jungle." So star begins The Poisonwood Bible, thei Barbara Kingsolver's brilliantfurt ly realised epic of one family's mic journey to the heart of darkpoir ness. The year is 1959. Nathan spe Price, Southern Baptist preachsho er, takes his wife and four cha daughters to the village of Kihad langa on a mission to convert 180 the Congolese to Christianity. A compelling catastrophe of muding tual misunderstanding unfolds.

year Nathan, "Our Father," is ob-est 1 sessed with baptising all the bott children of the village in the a fo river, which, to the Kilangans, of w wise to the ways of crocodiles, signifies death. He plants toma-Atk toes and Kentucky Wonder ther heans, but they cannot be polligh linated by exotic African bugs. and "Jesus is bangala!" he cries at the end of sermons. Bangala puti ("most precious") spoken with emi the wrong intonation becomes son "poisonwood," the name of a day tree that confers a deadly itch. The preacher's descent into

pah fanatical madness is narrated in turn by each of his four only daughters: five-year-old Ruth May Leah, who loves her father and loves the Kilangans, jivetalking Rachel, who misses her deodorant and hairspray, and lame, speechless Adah, who attir discovers that "here, bodily damage is more or less con- worms in the flour, poisonous and notes hopefully that "time story. Skip the lectures.



The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver Faber & Faber, £10.99, 546pp

sidered to be a by-product of living, not a disgrace". Kingsolver gives each her own voice. These are rounded, convincing portraits; we become totally involved with them and their untenable plight, as their fa-ther's unsuccessful mission lurches from bad to worse and the family falls foul of almost the entire village, including the Chief and, fatally, the nganga or, in the words of the preacher,

"what we call a witch doctor", Against the explosive background of Congolese independence from Belgium, the election and assassination of Patrice Lumumba and coming to power of the dictator Mobutu, the family struggles against vation and hostile neighbours. News seeps in of the murder of missionaries and violence between hlacks and whites. Time to give up, urges the girls' mother Never, says their father. Jesus will take care of his own.

We are heading inexorably for tragedy. When it comes it is desperately moving, an inevitable sacrifice that, like so much of the story to this point, is symbolic without ever being overstated, the culmination of a richly poetic and often harrowingly beautiful saga that has not faltered for a moment.

We are now about threequarters of the way through the book. If only Kingsolver could have left it here, trusting her readers to draw their own conclusions. Instead, in a lengthy coda, she over-eggs a near perfect pudding by indulging in great swathes of polemic and filling her characters' mouths with outraged moralising.

The points she makes, about the horrors of colonialism and the obscenity of racism, have been made far more effectively by the substance of what went before. Worse, she undermines them by falling into a kind of guilt-induced reverse racism which is obsessed with skin colour. Thus, Leah hopes to "work my skin to darkness,"

erases whiteness altogether". Identifying the race with the sin, she concludes that Mobutu, hlack yet oppressive, is really white: "Only the face that shows is hlack." This is nonsense. It also patronises black people, as does her determination to justify every injustice perpetrated by the Congolese. so that she finds herself making light of female circumcision and the killing of twin babies.

Rachel, whitest and therefore nastiest of the sisters, points out that the King of Abomey slaughtered and enslaved neighbouring tribes. "So," replies Leah, with whom we are clearly meant to identify, "what looks like mass murder to us is probably misinterpreted ritual"

Kingsolver is a great story teller hut she is no philosopher and has a shaky grip on moral relativism. "Everything you're sure is right can be wrong in another place," we are assured vet she believes passionately in the absolute wrongness of Western imperialism Leah wants to make "something right in at least one tiny corner of the vast house of wrongs," to give her father "the simple human relief of knowing you've done wrong". This is confused and contradictory. Read the book for the sheer power of the

A double helping of hype

Could this be the first book to tell a love story from both points of view

in turn? Er... Sean French seems to recall that it was done in 1748

YOU CAN win awards for the best novel of the year, best first novel, even best second novel hut if there were an award for the Deal of the Year, then Come Together would win it hands down Josie Lloyd and Emlyn Rees, authors of one previous novel each, had the sparky notion of writing a novel together but separately. It would be a love story in alternating chapters with Lloyd telling it from the girl's point of view and Rees from the boy's.

This is far from being "the first novel to tell both sides of the story" as the hlurb puts it. Samuel Richardson's masterpiece, Clarissa, made devastating use of the technique in the middle of the 18th century, in the form of letters that Clarissa and the rake Lovelace

write to confidents. Still, the structure has a certain novelty value and the authors have been shrewder still The story is, needless to say, boy meets girl, but it's not just any boy and any girl. There is an apparently insatiable craving for Bridget Jones-like and Nick Hornby-like books. What if you had Bridget and Nick in the same book? What if you had a girl trying to cut down on eigarettes, worrying about her weight, frustrated in her job and desperate for a man meeting a guy who is all laddish and



Come Together by Josie Lloyd and **Emlyn Rhys** Arrow, £5.99, 292pp

having lots of affairs but this façade, this fear of commitment, just hides an intense capacity for emotion?

The pastiche is so cheerfully brazen as to be rather endearing. On the first page of Josie Lloyd's first chapter, Amy Rees is staring in the bathroom mirror on page two she de-scribes herself as a warthog and on the phone to her best mate; on page three she's worried about not having sex for six months (with a joke about her hymen growing back that is funny, but I think Kathy Lette made it first), and on page four she's smoking a cigarette, hav-

ing given up for 20 minutes.

Rossiter is Nick Hornby Behaving Badly with a touch of early Martin Amis. The first sex scene between Jack and Amy could politely be described as a detailed homage to the first sex scene between Charles and Rachel in Amis's The

Rachel Papers. The story is just Mills and Boon with grunge veneer. Jack and Amy meet, have sex, gradually fall in love, though Jack has difficulty in expressing this because he's a hloke aod scared of commitment. But just at the moment when he's acknowledging his feelings, enter Bad Girl, who provokes him into a very peculiar act of forced infidelity. He confesses and Amy breaks off with him, Both are hearthroken and the uestion in the final chapters is

whether love can find a way. The reason I am reviewing this book is that I have written collaborative novels myself, with my wife Nicci Gerrard, under the inspired pen-name of Nicci French. Obviously, we write completely different kinds of books. Nicci and I are trying for a single, seamless narrative, and we're happiest when we hear from readers who didn't even know that Nicci French is a non-existent schizophrenic

hermaphrodite. The point of Come Together Emlyn Rees's style as Jack is for the narrative voices to clash and contradict. Readers should not expect any tricky narrative games: this isn't Rashomon. Jack tells a certain part of the story, then Amy takes it over for a while, then

Jack continues. One fairly amusing transition happens right in the middle of the first sex scene, but for the most part it is remarkable how little the anthors exploit the comic possibilities of the form. "He can't read her mind. She can't read his," the hlurb promises. You expect misinterpretations, partial explanations, prudent deceptions, but the comedy largely consists of one character not knowing something about the other, then knowing it

This is not a book that does anything more than tell you things about men and women you've read elsewhere. It flatters its main characters and reassures its readers, but there's a cheerfulness even about its third-handedness. Come Together reads as if it were a laugh to write, but that's not necessarily a compliment

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THE WELKE NITTE VIEW

Life member of the gaucho club

Borges bewitched the world with his fables, but readers - and translators - should remember his roots, argues Jason Wilson

ceiebrate the centenary of Jorge Luis Borges (who was born in Buenos Aires on the 24 August 1899), the Borges estate and Viking Penguin have commissioned this new translation of his "fictions" from Andrew Hurley. To have all Borges's stories and parables in one hefty volume can only be a good thing, but why re-translate them?

These quirky intellectual teases caught on, remarkably in the 1960s, first in the US and then Britain, in the wake of an earlier Freoch discovery. They formed part of the commercial blossoming of Latin American fiction in the heyday of Che Guevara and the Cuban revolution. Borges was then misread as a magical realist: as unlikely as the cover, based on a painting called "Havana", which adorns the clever anthology called Labyrinths that Penguin launched in 1970. It was unlikely because Borges was always conservative, and silly in his political views.

In subtle ways, Labyrinths created a false Borges by stripping him of his Buenos Aires roots. His first published books were poems celebrating his return to his native city after seven years in Europe, along with an idiosyncratic biography of a minor suburban poet. Borges was so fascinated by the paradoxes of Buenos Aires cosmopolitanism that he wrote essays in a refashioned creole Spanish, and loved imitating the ways street-toughs talked. But the writer who wrote mind-twisting storyessays hlurring genres, mocking realism and psychology - and who appeared so cumningly modern that he was hracketed with Samuel Beckett when both won the thor the world oow knows as Borges.

Mainly for political and class reasons, this Borges has had few detractors abroad (Vladimir Nabokov excepted), and many at home in Buenos Aires. His fictional world still strikes me as narrow and limited, with few moving human relationships, no sex little about women and weak plots. This is a world as odd, and as bookish, as the man himself.

In the 1970s, readers had to turn to several further translations to reach the whole writer, especially those by Anthony Kerrigan and Norman Thomas di Giovanoi. Here, for the first time in English, is all of



Collected Fictions by Jorge Luis Borges, translated by Andrew Hurley Allen Lane/ Penguin Press, £20, 565pp

again, as he did in 1970, and is the new translation justified by the poverty of the

First, the Borges who emerges in this volume struck me as more varied than I expected, with work spanning the years from 1935 to 1983. But, for an author who famously derided length as padding ("the madness of composing vast books - setting out in 500 pages an idea that can be perfectly related orally in five minutes"), there is something worrying about this brick of a book. Could it fuel a mistaken belief that this complete Borges is the same Borges who stunned so many readers and writers? (His roll-call of admirers runs from Michel Foucault to George Steiner, Salman Rushdie and Carlos Fuentes, though few followed his concision.)

In fact, the Borges who counts is the author of two slim volumes: Fictions (1944) and The Aleph (1949). This decade of creativity, for a lazy writer who preferred reading, started when Borges wanted to prove to himself that his mind still worked after an accident. It changed our awareness of literature: within Latin American writing there is a clear pre- and post-Borges style of self-awareness and irony.

But this short outburst was not maintained. Even Borges himself became annoved with the fame of these despairing and vivid parables. In 1974, he closed his complete works in Spanish with a mock obituary that omitted these two volumes; he often quipped that he was first a reader, then a poet, and only lastly a story-teller. So this new book blends in several fur-

1940s. There is the Borges who loved parody, and who defined his A Universal History of Iniquity (1935) as "the irresponsible sport of a shy sort of man who could oot bring himself to write short stories". This vein continued with his mock detective works, written in collaboration with his friend Adolfo Bioy Casares.

Then there is the Borges who had

turned blind by the 1950s and was coaxed back into writing by his translator and editor Norman Thomas di Giovanni, a process that led to Brodie's Report (1970), published an amazing 21 years after The Aleph, and The Book of Sand (1983). These stories have little bite: the rigour of thought is lost and the syntax loose, simply because Borges was blind and could oot think and correct himself as he wrote. Had Borges only written these later stories he would not have become "Borges".

Then there are the sincere poet and the witty anachronistic essayist. Such a confusion of different Borgeses is coted by the master himself in his self-mocking parable about fame called "Borges and I". It concludes, slightly awkwardly in Hurley's version, "I am not sure which of us it is that's writing this page". (Compare Di Giovanni's "Which of us is writing this page I don't know".)

Why re-translate all these uneven Borgeses and oot edit the best into a revamped Labyrinths? Here, there's a behind-the-scenes clash between translator's rights and literary estates, and a mistaken, even mercenary, attempt to bring out the "real" Borges by suppressing previous translations.

I have carefully checked Andrew Hurley's new versions with earlier ooes and with Borges's own Argentine Spanish. Look, for example, at Borges's own favourite, fantasy-autobiographical story "The South", about an accident, a fever and a doomed, imagined duel with a pampas gaucho. Hurley, who lives in Puerto Rico, misrepresents the basic country word casco as "shell of a large country house" (as did Anthony Kerrigan, a previous translator). It simply means the main house and outhouses of country estates testancias). Another common word, hacienda, meaning cattle, becomes "pastures". Kerrigan had "ranches", which it can mean, but not in Argentina.



In 1955, the ghost of Evita rules the Buenos Aires of dictator Juan Péron, whom Borges always detested

translations of words with specific Argentine associations. Some of the translator's useful notes are also imprecise.

Another trait is to fill out or explain. For instance, an "old" house in the Spanish becomes a "ramshackle" old house. Yet Borges was tough on himself about such padding.

All this might simply be the kind of erudition that Borges mocked. It is not intended to be a slur on Hurley, who often reads well in English. But it touches on

pected oscillation between local and universal knowledge. Through a plethora of biographies, Borges is being read today in the Hispanic world as a very porteno (someone living in the port of Buenos Aires) writer - one soaked in Argentine culture but open, crankily, to the outer world, at least in a literary way.

An opportunity has been missed to in-·clude the best translations of the best Borges - the alert, quirky writer of his midlife crisis in the 1940s - in a volume that

He may do so, of course, but not in this format, which cannot be smuggled into a pocket and which contradicts what Hurley succinctly calls Borges's "laconic terseness". A last, pedantic note: the first translation of Borges into English was oot, as Hurley affirms, in 1948. In 1942, Robert Fitzgerald translated poems in a New Directions anthology; and in 1945, Paul Bowles also presciently translated Borges.

Jason Wilson teaches in the Spanish De-

Hard lines from the bitter bard

SOMETIME VERY soon, Tony Blair will cast a husy eye over the names just proposed to him as candidates for Poet Laureate: Carol Ann Duffy. Tony Harrison, Seamus Heaney and Andrew Motion. This odd rigmarole, whereby the PM chooses from a preselected shortlist, exactly nurrors the appointment of bishops

in the Church of England. Yet the most purely episcopal figure in British poetry hardly made the initial gossip, let alone the final cut. Geoffrey Hill's new hook-length, 150-section poem, The Triumph of Love (Penguin, £8.99), caps a career that began in 1959, when this police constable's son from deep in the Archers country of Worcestershire

published his first collection, For the Unfallen. Hill's academic career has since taken him from Leeds via Cambridge to Boston, hut those I ldle-English beochmarks do paint to his work's foundations. Ted Hughes aside, no poet since the Eliot of Four Quartets has dug deeper into a mystical ideal of Englishness revealed in religion, literature and landscape. And oo poet since the Pound of the Cantos has flayed more savagely the

hrutish modern life that saps the faith and mind of "a nation/ with so many memorials hut oo memory".

Its title taken from Petrarch, The Triumph of Love mingles an appeal to the Blessed Virgin on behalf of our bloodstained century with much vituperative satire and an elegy for the ineffable losses of the Holocaust and the Flanders trenches. Sometimes, the tone lightens into flashes of childhood memoir, with scabrously funny hursts of self-analysis. The poet portrays himself as a "rancorous, narcisistic old sod" - half Jeremiah half Alf Garnett. His imagination a "kermesse of wrath and resentment", he upsets a forgetful

present with guilty memories. Knotted, dense, but harshly comic, Hill makes no concessions to dumbed-down modernity ("these strange children/ pitiless in their ignorance and contempt") with the vast range of his allusions. In this company, "Benn" will signify the German poet Gottfried, not Tony. Throughout, however, a bemused editor-figure ("ED") stands in for the sceptical reader and even glosses a few of the more abstruse

by Erica Jong

Bloomsbury, £14,99, 202pp

nism can be so fusty. Here was

a blast of fresh air. That was

A WEEK IN BOOKS



BOYD TONKIN The Bishop of Poetry delivers a great sermon

passages. Yet Hill's lines prickle with a salty slang, and he often dives into a much more demotic mode. Even Gracie Fields turns up in one of several Secood World War fragments, "She and her armed/

aspidistra, last off the beaches". His satirical voice is sharp and knowing; it will not oot take much sleuthing to identify "N. and N.", those "worthless" contemporary poets made "Swedish millionaires" (by the Nobel Prize?). And when Hill snipes at "the legends that now circulate/ about Canary Wharf, the

Isle of Dogs" (where I type these lines), we poor hacks can be sure that yes, he does mean us, as we hasten the time's ruin with our "entertainment overkill".

Half-smothered by this acrimony. yet sprouting like stray flowers in asphalt, Hill's lyric gift makes itself felt now and again. Then, some heart-stopping cadence distilled from the landscapes of his youth will recall the hest of Pound: "The common/elm - ulmus procera also gone/ under, with the shires; though deer/ are cared for, and the rare white cattle; as/ is memory in

this tranche of frozen sunlight."

For Hill, as for all the backwardglancing Modernists who descend from Eliot and Pound, the rot began centuries ago. He ootes that "moh' and 'fun' came in at the same time"; in the late 17th century. Eliot's date for a "dissociation of sensibility" that wrecked the Church - and the verse - of England. Take this sacramental politics seriously (which nobody, thank heavens, does), and you might end up advocating an Anglican Taliban with croziers and chasubles - and auto-da-fés on the village green.

Theocracy, Hill knows, is hardly on the cards. He spots every hellish pitfall of such nostalgia - more so than Eliot, who failed to square the Holocausa's reality with his lofty Christian ideal, Hill, in contrast, never takes his grieving eye off that flame. His poetry merely hopes to

give "a sad and angry consolatioo". "The odds/ are against High Prophecy", Hill understands. It beggars all belief to imagine a poet of his finesse and asperity lauding the ouptials of some Windsor princeling. No matter: The Triumph of Love counts as one of the finest long works from a postwar poet in England. (Not the finest, perhaps; in my view, Basil Bunting's Briggflats stands alooe.) Hill takes us oo a death-shadowed walk, down "the cinder-path by the old scytheworks", from the Black Country to Buchenwald and beyood. Along the way, glimpses of unearthly beauty mix with ashen mourning, acrid rage and a spatter of sour jokes. Follow him, with a keen ear and an open mind, and "There will be/ no quarrel between us - all this time -/ a light rain unceasing, the moist woods/ full of wild garlic".

ERRATA BY FELIX BENNETT MARGARET'S HOW TO COOK THE FOREIGN SECRETARY

CONTAINS A GREAT RECIPE FOR STUFFED ROBIN.

Feasting on stale bread and blown roses

Women want more than this self-regarding froth, says Ann Treneman

ERICA JONG'S collection of non-fiction essays has a subheading that seeks to answer the question in its title: "Power, Sex, Bread and Roses", Now this may be a bit hackneyed, but it could have worked. Naomi Www.introduces Erica Jong as voices of the century" and the author says that she has been ruthless in editing her "non fiction meditations" for this book.

To which I can only answer: not ruthless enough. The publisher and Wolf should have known better but Erica Jong cannot get off so lightly. She wrote this thing and should be embarrassed to have dooe so.

Four of Flying was a great ever, and time has been perni-book: funny, wild. sexy. Femi-

seems to have come to believe in herself in a thoroughly unhealthy way. She is the centre of her - and now our - universe.

The book begins with a look at the power-struggle between the sexes over the past 25 years. In fact, the essays on Hillary Clinton, Louise Wood-What Do Women Want? ward and so on are a toe-dip in this direction. They are patchy. Arguments mutate into observations, and vice versa.

The rest of the book is divided into sections on sex and "bread and roses". This latter more than 20 years ago, howcontains her recipe "for remaining sane". The ingredients cious for Erica Joog. She are Italy, poetry and her house.

Here the vertical pronoun and the ego become cloying to the point of stickiness. Take this passage from the "Books and Houses": "Fay Weldon was recently my houseguest for a weekend. Quite early Sunday morning, after a cup of tea, she

vanished back to the guest room without saying a word... "Shh," I said to my husband. 'Fay must be writing.'

"Shh,' Fay's friend said to me. 'She's writing.' I puttered around the kitchen feeling a delicious sense of anticipation. It was almost as good as made it roses." writing myself.

writing. Everyone felt the frisson of creativity." The book has its moments.

Some of her asides are very good and the essay on the perfect man is funny and perceptive. Her ideas on pornography are interesting but, even here, you end up cringing. The essay on Henry Miller starts off promisingly by describing his attachment to the word "shit". She then sentimentalises it. saying that in his mouth the word hecame clean. "He purified the excrement of life and

The essay is not really about "It was as if the house were Miller at all. It seems that he

was very taken with Fear of Ftying. The result was "a torrent of applause, enthusiasm, and unpaid agentry". She was bowled over and looked him up when she went to California. His house became a refuge.

She was one of many visitors, some more nubile than others. "Now and then be copped a feel though not of my breasts. I was not his physical type at all (he adored Asian women) or maybe he thought of me as too bookish, for he always made a great point of how literary I was." The essay ends with the message, o la Hallmark: "I hope you get your Nobel Prize in heaven, Henry, sent up on blasts of dynamite."

Egregious. What do womeo want? Not this.



reservation: 0171 388 5599 . . . 1

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PAPERBACKS

BY EMMA HAGESTADT AND CHRISTOPHER HIRST

Benefit to by Roy Porter.

The Greatest | SEEDS of CHANGE Mankind Mankind Fontona, £14.99, 833pp

PORTER'S EPIC braids together the history of medicine with an account of how disease exploited man's restless motioo round the planet. Typhus entered Europe with the Crusades, while Columbus "unleashed the worst health disaster" ever. As preventative medicine, Cicero's advice from the 1st century BC sounds uncannily familiar: "Take moderate exercise and just eoough food to restore strength". In a prescient view of psycho-spiritualism. Porter notes it "uncannily echoes the victim-hlaming doctrines of the moral majority". Feeling well, Mr Hoddle?

A Recipe

for Bees

Virogo, £9.99,

Dargatz

SET IN rural British Columbia, Gail

like a candy-flossed version of Carol

Shield's The Stone Diaries. Switching

between a Little House on the Prairie-

married at 18 and left to repent in

leisure. It's only when she resurrects

her mother's bee-keeping equipment

possibilities: 60 years on she's still

harvesting the benefits. Well-written

bokum: the reader's only stumbling

block is sorting out Olafs from Olsens.

that life on the range starts to buzz with

like past, and more comfortable present,

the book tells the story of Augusta Oisen,

Anderson-Dargatz's second oovel reads

by Gail Anderson



LIKE CHARACTERS in a PD James novel Frances Fyfield heroine's aren't like anyone you've ever met. The central character of her latest murder mystery is Elisabeth Kennedy, a disgraced ex-police officer who lives alone in a converted London bell-tower. Convalescing from two traumas: the death of her beautiful younger sister, followed by a lifethreatening accident of her own, Elisabeth relies on best friend Patsy. While Patsy regales her with stories of her dating adventures, Elisabeth awaits another gentleman caller - her sister's killer. Loodon's lonely hearts get lonelier.

Complaint

rambling polemic against the

dictatorship of the hien-pensants,

A FIERCELY articulated, if somewhat

particularly those with academic tenure.

Hughes rails against PC language ("the

noting that "the old division of left and

Puritan sects". He is telling on his home

turf of the art-world, attacking would-be

bitterest words for the museum directors

indulges in invective at the cost of clarity.

censors of the right, but reserving his

who beatified Jean-Michel Basquiat.

Bracing stuff, but sometimes Hughes

right has come to look more like two

old American love of euphemism"), while

by Robert Hughes,



NEWLY EXPANDED, this classic work explores the far-reaching impact of quinine, sugar, tea, cotton, the potato and oow the coca plant. A wonderful read, provocative and well-informed. Pursuing the story of cocaine, Hobbouse notes: 1) Distances in the Andes were measured by the cocada - how long it took to chew a quantity of coca leaves; 2) The success of Coca-Cola, which once "undonbtedly contained cocaine", partly stems from its popularity as a post-coital douche (users maintain oeither Diet Coke nor Pepsi are as efficacious); 3) All Hollywood knew that Popeye's "spinach" was cocaine.

Justice |

THE CONFIDENT manner in which the

place until page 130), the limpid prose,

titan of the murder genre is on peak

form. James uses the musty milieu of

the taut construction - all confirm that a

Middle Temple to excellent effect. There

is an ample supply of suspects when the

body ofQC Venetia Aldridge is discovered

by her clerk: "What met his eyes was so

bizarre in its horror that be stood rooted

in disbelief...". Commander Dalgliesh

as murky as the gaslit alleyways.

oegotiates a legal labyrinth, its morality

sentence (though the event does not take

first victim is announced in the first

by PD James,

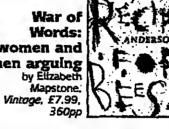
Penguin, £5.99.



BASING HER novel on actual events in the Thirties, Canadian poet Helen Humphreys tells the story of female aviators Grace O'Gorman and Willa Briggs, who fly over Toronto in an attempt to set a new endurance record. Set largely in the cockpit of a small Tiger Moth, you keep reading to see how the author will kee the women's relationship, and the reader's interest, airborne over 25 days. The novel's breathtaking descriptions of Canada's open spaces, and even wider skies, are grounded in plenty of authenticsounding aeronautical know-how land the

logistics of excreting at high altitude).

Words: women and men arguing by Elizabeth Mapstone.



IGNORE THE ludicrous cover puff ("all you need to know about arguments to win"). Based on the immodestly named Mapstone Argument Questionaire (MAQ), the author surveys 57 varieties of argybargies, from lovers' tiffs and family feuds to hust-ups with bosses. Though she argues against stereotyping, Mapstone still sends round her "old-fashioned. gentlemanly" husband to sort out disputes with neighbours. She says happy couples "relate to each other as individuals rather than as representatives of the other sex". Surely an element of vive la différence la central to heterosexual partnerships?

SPOKEN WORD CHRISTINA HARDYMENT



Amsterdam read by Alan Bates HarperCollins. 5hrs 30mins, £9.99

IAN MCEWAN'S Booker Prize-winning novella Amsterdam takes to spoken word like a duck to water not least because it is so short that no abridgement was needed to fit it on to four cassette tapes. It is the story of the consequences for three high-flyers of their very different liaisons with the woman with whose untimely death the story opens. The plot, which McEwan unfolds with the consummate skill of a conjuror, is playfully topical in its portravals of a candidate for prime minister, a broadsheet oewspaper editor and an eminent musician struggling with a millermium composition. Alan Bates, his voice gruffly wry and authoritative. is the perfect choice



Science and Discovery . Newton, Darwin, Einstein Simon & Schuster, 9hrs, £20

ENLIGHTENNIENT TAPES are finding their feet as a novel and casily assimilable medium of educatiun and selfimprovement. This particular set is an excellent introduction for ignorant arts-trained minds like my own to Newton, Darwin and Einstein. Each pair of cassettes introduces the great men biographically sets their ideas in context and explains their lasting value. They are also richly furnished with contemporary comment -John Donne on Copernicus, for example. Aithough I found presenier Edwin Newman's important intonation a shade soporitic - Mr Chips on a Friday afternoon - the generous sprinkling of quotations read in other voices makes the overall effect bouncily upbeat.

Fear and loathing from Newmarket to Las Vegas

Is it a novel? Is it a memoir? Laura Thompson hedges her bets but appreciates some good value from this wayward punter's odyssey



by Jonathan Rendali Yellow Jersey Press, £10, 250pp THIS IS a clever book, with a vulnerable heart inside its tough outer shell. It is far better than it would have been had it obeyed its original brief: that Jonathan Rendall's £12,000 advance should be spent entirely on gambling, and that the book

should be an account of those bets. It is a nifty-sounding idea, but one that could have produced nothing more substantial than an extended exercise in journalese: vignettes of betting shops, casinos, Vegas, Newmarket, while the writer excites himself but not his readers as he commits frottage with the low-lifers

of the gambling world. Rendall gives us something more

interesting. His book deals in many smoke-stained clichés, but seen through an artistic eye. He purports to be telling his story: that of a sickly, struggling writer-journalist who grimly susceptible to the "signifi- from New Orleans to Las Vegas, is gambles his £12,000 while reliving events from his past. However, at the end he reveals that everything apart from the bets - is a fiction and that "Jonathan Rendall" is a persona. This has a disorientating effect - even though we may have guessed it - as the feeling persists that some of the "fictioo" is very much truth.

Indeed, this other Jonathan feels son, perhaps, whose presence many writer-journalists dread to ac-

knowledge in themselves, the "free- 1971, the year before he backed Nilancer" still chasing demeaning as- jinsky, who won in 1970. signments in his mid-thirties. disappointed and alcoholic and an elusive table dancer, pursued cance" of a winning or tfar more like- far more convincing that it might poor generic bastard's life story.

Some passages are more successful than others. The opening in a doctor's surgery, is absolutely cracking. So too is the childhood description of watching the Derby -"Mill Reef was rolling his head as though he was laughing"-although like his creator's alter ego: the per- someone should have noticed that ing influence of Martin Amis upon even the fictional Rendall cannot have backed Mill Reef, who won in

The account of a love affair with other characters fail to come to life, and the narrative voice does not always live up to its own standards of crisp subtlety. The tired and emotional telegraphese - "Run out of G. Pils. Don't replenish. Minri watr or nothing" - moves dangerously close to Bridget Jones territory. The loommodern male prose ("Went through half the Cuba and chained a few

fags") sometimes makes the Rendall persona seem like a straight amalgam of John Self and Richard Tull.

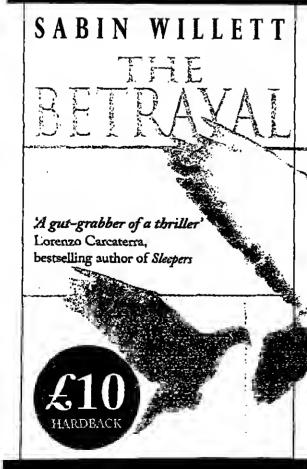
as reader.

On the whole, Twelve Grand convinces. The descriptions of the bets ring hilariously true: "No winners but cld. see why Walter tipped them. Value runs all the way. Two thirds and another second." (Gamblers never mind losing if they get "value".) Strong, simple phrases bring the book to vivid life. And there is, beneath the tricks, a sad honesty which makes you wish that Rendall had completely cut the cord which ties his book to its self-conscious devices, and plunged even more deeply into the difficult waters of fiction.



The twilight world of the betting shop John Rasmussen

She took their word They took \$50 million and her life



LIA ZI WOZ TUO

GOOD BOOKSHOPS

Sales of Ted Hughes's Birthday Letters have been boosted yet again by the award of another literary prize - the prestigious Whitbread Book of the Year, which he won for an unprecedented second year running. (He had already

won the Whitbread Poetry Award, the T S Ellot and Forward Prizes.) Poetry outselling Men Are From Mors... and Delia - not a bad start to the year. The Whitbread effect (plus a little light modelling?) has also helped to make

Bestsellers

Amanda Foreman's life of that 18thcentury Spencer, Georgiana, the bestselling hardback biography. Compiled from sales over seven days ending 31 January 1999 © Bookwatch Ltd., 1999

ORIGINAL FICTION

TITLE	AUTHOR/PUBLISHER	PAUCE	MEERLY SALES
Southern Cross	Patricia D Comwall (Little, Brown)	£16.99	2,124
Powerplays: ruthless com	Tom Clancy (Penguin)	£5.99	1,764
The Death of Amy Parris	T R Bowen (Penguin)	E5.99	1,589
It Means Mischief	Kate Thompson (Baritam)	£5.99	1.467
Liar Birds	Lucy Fitzgerald (Black Swan)	£5.99	1,458
Tiffany's Secret Diary	Kate Lock (BBC)	£4.99	1,167
City Girl	Patricia Scanlan (Bantam)	£5.99	1.100
Churchill's People	Mary Jane Staples (Corgl)	£5.99	989
Come Together	Josie Lloyd & Emlyn Rees (Arrow)	£5.99	953
Ramses 5	Christian Jacq (Simon&Schuster)	£9.99	857
			•

ORIGINAL NON-FICTION

TITLE	AUTHOR/FUBLISHER	PRICE	WEEKLY SALE
Birthday Letters	Ted Hughes (Faber)	£14.99	4,306
Men Are From Mars	John Gray (Thorsons)	£8.99	3,432
Delia's How To Cook	Della Smith (BBC)	£16.99	2,829
Little Book of Feng Shui	Lillian Too (Element)	£1.99	2,511
The Little Book of Calm	Paul Wilson (Penguin)	£1.99	. 1,883
Seafood Odyssey	Rick Stein (BBC)	£18.99	.1,709
Notes From a Big Country	Bill Bryson (Doubleday)	£16.99	1,657
Low Fat Cookbook	Rosemary Conley (Century)	£16.99	1,608
StationX: codebreakers	Michael Smith (Channel 4)	£14.99	1,581
The Tutankhamun Prophesies	Maurice Cotterei (Headline)	£18.99	1,363

BIOGRAPHY

	Diodian		
TITLE	AUTHOR/PUBLISHER	PRICE	WEEKLY SALES
Angela's Ashes	Frank McCourt (Flamingo)	£7.99	3,585
A Kentish Lad	Frank Muir (Corgi)	£7.99	1,843
Georgiana	Amanda Foreman (HarperCollins)	£20	1,019
The Diving Bell	Jean-Dominique Bauby (Fourth Estate)	£5.99	780
The Guy'nor	Lenny McLean (Blake)	£14.99	743
Failing Leaves	Adeline Yen Mah (Penguin)	£6.99	725
My Autobiography	Dicide Bird (Coronet)	£6.99	636
iris Murdoch: a memoir	John Bayley (Duckworth)	£16.95	600
Losing My Virginity	Richard Branson (Virgin)	£20	556
Things Can Only Get Better	John O'Farrell (Doubleday)	£9.99	549

INSPIRATIONS NOVELIST A S BYATT

The play Shakespeare's Troilus and Cressida. It's a passionate play about intellectual thinking, sex and politics. It's got everything – the play in which Shakespeare argued things out. There ore greater plays hut this one moves me because of the quality of the thought.

The artwork Matisse's Red Studio which is in the MOMA in New York. It moves me because it's an image of the inside your head when you are arranging your thoughts. Every time I go to look at it, which is every time I go to New York, I stand in front of it to see if I've remembered it right and more and more frequently my memory image corresponds with the reality, but never quite, so it's always a

The film I'm not a great film person. The film that I love the most is The Seven Samurai by Akira Kurosawa. I've just been in Japan and the Japanese say that it's a Western film made in Japan. I think it's the combination of a Western style of drama and Japanese emotion - it's one of the very few films where I forget anything except watching the

emotions of the people.

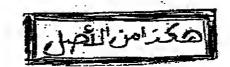


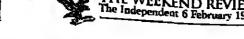
Filey Bay on the North Yorkshire coast between Scarborough and Bridlington. We spent our summer holidays there as children, before and immediately after the war. I've tried to write about other seashores but they always get transmuted into that one because that is my image of where the land meets the sea. It's also the place where Charlotte Bronte first saw

The music Given the choice. I prefer silence to music but Das Rheingold by Wagner makes me both think and feel passionately. I've always been obssesed by Norse mythology. Wagner said that there had to be one note to each word. The words that Wagner wrote are in a way as

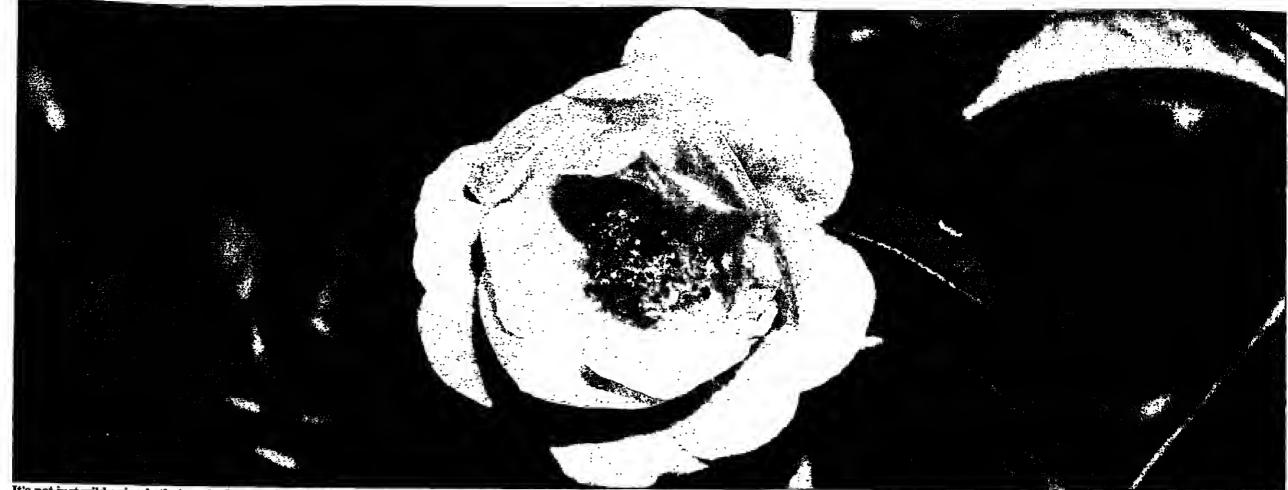
important as the music, I dislike the words inspired and creative: I think influence is a much better word. The form and the content of all these things causes me to think about the nature of thinking and writing.

A S Byatt's 'Elementals' is published by Chatto, £12





COUNTRY & GARDEN



It's not just wild animals that are in danger of extinction - plants are also under threat. Join the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens to save rare blooms such as the camellia Neil Joy'A-Z Botonical

Forget whales, save the conradina

It's time to turn over a new leaf and help conserve some of the 34,000 plant species threatened with extinction. By Anna Pavord

ou can scarcely think of a whale now without mentally adding the words "Save the" in front of it. Pandas and gorillas are equally potent symbols of the need for conservation in the animal world. But bow many people are equally concerned to save the conradina, or the ramosmania or the nesocodon - or any other of the 34,000 different plants that are currently threat-

"Not enough," says Kerry Walter, who for several years beaded the Threatened Plant Unit at the World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge. The database he built up provided much of the underpinning for the recently published Red List of plants that are in danger of disappearing for ever.

In the garden we would think it

Unfortunately, gardeners are part of the problem. Dr Walter quotes some grim stories about plants that have been completely stripped from their native habitats to cater to the whims of an orchid-grower or a camellia-fancier. In 1895, Carl Johnnsen wrote from Colombia to the firm that employed him as a

collector. Orchids, he assured them, "are extinguished in this spot. I left." To leave plants behind would be to play into the hands of rivals.

Abeliophyllum distichum:

the forsythia family. The

February flowers are white,

scented. Does best in sun.

Endangered in the wild but

available from Burncoose &

Gwennap, Redruth, Cornwall

South Down Nurseries,

TR16 6BJ (1209 861112).

its habitats. A beautiful

reliably hardy, with dark,

leathery leaves and hanging

summer through to autumn.

the wild but available from PW

Plants, Sunnyside, Heath Road,

Kenninghall, Norfolk NR16 2DS

Needs shelter and almost

(01953 888212).

questions about where our plants come from and how they have been bave finished all along the Rio produced Traceability is a key word Dagua where there are no plants among those who supply food to our supermarkets. There is no reason why the principle should not apply We can belp by asking awkward in the nursery trade, too.

But does it matter that a plant is disappearing in the wild, if it is alive and kicking in our gardens? Yes, it does. Generally, a gardener's eye will be drawn to a clone that has bigger flowers than the norm, or

TEN GARDEN PLANTS IN DANGER IN THE WILD

Cosmos atrosanguineus: Once a

plant's appearance is what interests us. But cloning of this sort does little for genetic diversity. The plant with the bigger flowers may not have such a robust constitution as the straight species from which it has

Bowland, Clitheroe, Lancs BB7

Lotus berthelotii (coral gem):

hanging baskets, but threatened

where it has been over-collected

usually used as an annual, with

of dark reddish-brown flowers in

long, hanging stems covered

Common in containers and

in its native Canary Islands

for the trade. A perennial,

4PF (01200 447615).

habit, or better coloured foliage. A been selected. Somebody needs to must not run away with the idea that care for the uglier ducklings too. They may be the redemptory swans of the future.

"Gardeners have the potential to be an enormously effective force for good," says Dr Walter, "but they

Meend. St Briavels, Gloucs GL15

Paeonia cambessedesii: Once

common in Spain and Majorca,

overrun by tourist development.

where its habilats have been

Low growing (18in) perennial

with wonderful leaves, pewter

6RW, Tel: 01594 530134.

plant in their back garden, they have solved the problem. Better to have it there than not have it anywhere else in the world, of course, but one plant, on its own, does not add up to the survival of a species."

So what can we do, I asked Dr Walter? Think positive, be said, "The ship may be taking in water, but it hasn't sunk yet. It's not too late to save many of these threatened plants, but salvation is more likely to come about by group effort than by individual action." A lone gardener can rarely grow enough plants in sufficient isolation to ensure that the seed will be pure.

because they bave one endangered

Instead, join the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens, which has groups all over the country. Understand the importance of records. A plant without a provenance is a book with no words. Support organisations plants. Dr Walter points out that there are seven times as many threatened plants as threatened animals, but in the US, for instance, only 3 per cent of funds available for conservation is spent on plants.

So save the camellia and think only another 33,999 plants to go.

The rest goes on animals.

London TW9 3BW (0181-332 5953)

ened with extinction?

strange to chuck a plant on to the compost heap before we had seen flower, fruit or scent. But that is what we are allowing to happen to plants in the wild. They are disappearing before we have even had a chance to record their potential.

MILLENNIUM TREES No 2: Hawthorn

Camellia reticulata: Introduced Known only in Korea, where it to this country from China in has a limited natural range. A 1820, and since over-collected by slow-growing shrub, related to zealous plant-bunters. A spectacular wall shrub in the milder counties of Britain, Large tinged with pink. Not showy, but flowers of soft rose-crimson among the evergreen leaves. Vulnerable in the wild, but available from Greenway Gardens, Churston Ferrers, Brixham, Devon TQ5 0ES (01803 842382). Berberidopsis corallina (coral Chantbus puniceus (lobster plant): Native of Chile, where claw): A New Zealand native, but al forestry threatens the introduction of sheep and cattle to the islands has pushed evergreen, twining climber, not its survival to the limit. Handsome, but tender and (except in the mildest areas) clusters of deep red flowers from suitable only for conservatories. Fine, pinnate foliage and clusters of large, scartet flowers, curved complete shade. Endangered in like a parrot's beak. Endangered

in the wild, but available from

The Conservatory, Gomshall

9LB (01483 203019).

Gallery, Gomshall, Surrey GU5

native of Mexico, now a darling of the berbaceous border, with its dark maroon-crimson flowers famously smelling of chocolate. By nature perennial, growing to about 2ft. As with dahlias, its tubers will need protection to survive the winter. Thought to be extinct in the wild, but still available from Michael Wickenden, Cally Gardens, Gatehouse of Fleet, Castle Douglas, Scotland DG7 2DJ. Fax: 01557 815029 (no phone). Kirengesboma palmata roots of this handsome perennial are a valued ingredient of traditional medicine in China and Japan and it has suffered as a result. Boasts fine lobed leaves with creamy yellow sbuttlecock flowers in late summer and autumn. Prefers light shade and moist, lime-free soil. It is rare in its native habitats, but is available from Holden Clough Nursery, Holden, Bolton-by-

late summer. Endangered in the wild, but available from most garden centres or Church Hill Cottage Gardens, Charing Heath Ashford, Kent TN27 0BU (01233 712522). Magnolia wilsonii: Under pressure, as the bark is regularly harvested for medicinal use in its of the large-leaved species, native China. Deciduous tree or shrub of slender growth (to 25ft) and hanging white flowers in June. Best in partial sbade. Unable to regenerate easily in

the wild, thus vulnerable, but

available from Norfields, Lower

suffused with purplish-red. Deep rose-pink flowers in mid-spring. with fine, silvery foliage. Clusters Now rare in the wild, but available from the Monocot Nursery, Jacklands, Jacklands Bridge, Tickenham, Clevedon, Avon BS21 6SG (01275 810394). Rhadadendron rex, subspecie fictolacteum: Native of southwest China where many of its natural habitats are disappearing. One of the hardiest reaching more than 20ft where it is happy. Its creamy white flowers are blotched with crimson. Vulnerable in the wild, but available from Glendoick Gardens, Glencarse, Perth, Scotland PH2 7NS (01738 860205)

Send donations to Botanic Gardens Conservation International. Decanso House, 199 Kew Road,

CUTTINGS

NEWS FROM THE GARDENERS' WORLD

THE TREES that crop up most frequently in English place names are thorn and ash, but we shall never know whether these oames once celebrated the most common trees in the neighbourhood, or trees that were sufficiently uncommon to be significant. Neither explanation interferes with the fact that hawthorns are ancient and venerable elenients of our landscape. They are not noble in the way that a beech or an oak is. The great tree-man, Alan Mitchell, evidently thought them so humble that he left them entirely out of his fine book. Trees of Britain (HarperCollins, £14,991. But they are survivors, growing in a wide variety of tough billets and providing food for an

extraordinary number and variety of insects and birds. More to the point, they are manageable. Any garden, bowever small, can accommodate a hawthorn, with its dense, interlocking branches and sturdy trunk The wild hawthorn of hedgerows is Crataegus monogyna, which, even in old age, is scarcely more than 25ft tall. In areas where a garden drifts into a wilder country landscape. this would still be my first choice. Urban gardeners may like to choose showier types of thorn, such as Cratacgus laevigata 'Paul's Scarlet' with blossom of brilliant red, or



Millennium tree: hawthorn, left. Swiss chard is good to eat A-Z Botonical

make a major feature from

orange). The shrubs used

to grow in two beds in the

south part of the gardens,

overcrowded. Most of the

The few hybrids that

original plants sent by

collectors had died off.

its collection of

but were badly

philadelphus (mock

C persimilis 'Prunifolia' which has highly polished leaves to set off its large, persistent and showy fruit.

THOMPSON AND Morgan's

Flower of 1999 is a new primrose-coloured foxglove, discovered by chance by one of their customers. It is a wonderful colour, with each individual flower heavily speckled in deep mahogany. Unfortunately, it is dwarfish - a contradiction in this particular flower. Foxglove Primrose Carousel' is available at £1.99 for 50 seeds. To place an order, call the credit card order line: 01473 690869. For a copy of Thompson & Morgan's new catalogue, call 01473 601090.

has allowed the Royal

remained were of little scientific value. The new feature is made up of 19 beds grouped round the base of the famous Pagoda at Kew. Fourteen beds will be planted with wild species, five filled with cultivars. Prepare your nose for a treat later this

MARSHALLS, THE East Anglian seed merchant, has recently produced a simple GENEROUS SPONSORSHIP leaflet showing which vegetables are good for us

and why. Broccoli and Botanic Gardens at Kew to Brussels sprouts are top of its list of the 15 most useful vegetables, because both contain high levels of glucosinolates. There are two types of this substance: sinigrin, present in sprouts, suppresses the development of precancerous cells.

Glucoraphanin (in broccoli) helps neutralise cancer cells before they build up to alarming levels. But both sprouts and broccoli are also high in protein, iron and Vitamin A. Other vegetables which

Marshalls says you should be eating include carrots, endive (particularly high in calcium), fennel, kale, lettuce, parsley (all good for magnesium and Vitamin C), peas, hot chilli peppers, salsify, spinach, sweet corn, Swiss chard and turnips... ANNA PAVORD

TRAVEL: FRANCE, GREECE



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COUNTRY **MATTERS**



DUFF HART-DAVIS

he ground is in a dread-ful state, with the winter breaking records for rainfall: springs are hursting out where none have flowed before, topsoil is being eroded by the ton, and mud with the consistency of porridge lies knee-deep in gateways trampled by cattle.

Small wonder, then, that landowners, walkers and riders are at daggers-drawn with the drivers of 4x4 vehicles which churn green lanes, bridleways and footpaths into a morass. One notorious theatre of dispute is the Ridgeway, the ancient track that runs east and west along the summit of the Berkshire Downs: a hiker recently described the stretch above Mariborough as being like the battlefield of the Somme.

The leading force for conservation is Gleam, the Green Lanes Environmental Action Movement, founded in 1995 by David Gardiner, a farmer living near Newbury. Today GLEAM has over 1,000 members, including 65 MPs and 16 MEPs drawn from all parties, and its aim is to protect ancient lanes from damage by recreational vehicles.

In the view of its founderchairman, the law has become hope lessly inadequate, in that it makes no distinction between motorised and unmotorised vehicles, or between surfaced and unsurfaced roads.

"A 30-ton articulated lorry is the same in law as a pony and trap," he says, "and a green lane byway no different from a six-lane dual

The group is seeking to establish legal definitions of "motorised" and "unmotorised", "surfaced" and "unsurfaced"; it also wants a ban on motor vehicles using unsurfaced roads, except for access, unless specially permitted by the responsible highway authority.

Mr Gardiner has been personally vilified in 4x4 magazines, but he is two sides are going on all over the country, and nowhere more vigorously than in Herefordshire, where the county council is considering , nearly 20 applications to have paths and hridleways declared Boats -Byways Open to All Traffic.

According to Dr John Harrison, Chairman of the Battle for Bridleway Group, based near Leominster, the root of the problem lies in the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981, which places a county council under an obligation to respond to any application for a right of way. When an application comes in, the council must serve notice on any landowner affected, and investigate whether or not a public right of way has ever existed. If evidence comes to light that the way was once open to vehicles - even if they were only carts - the council must declare a Boat, thus granting

The Act expressly denies coun-

cils the right to take into consid-



is announced objectors may call for of David Keown-Boyd, who lives a public inquiry, and they have a near Bucknell, over the horder in few green lanes have been churned

which they claim will destroy the this exceptional environment would character of the area. In the words Yet even he concedes that very

ment, wildlife, amenity or archae- west Herefordshire will become area, you cannot envisage the his most active opponents, Chris lanes," which will not survive if Marches Historic Lane Preservation Group, which is directing the research in county archives.

"His aim," Mr Marsden says, "is

NATURE NOTES

on the Cotswold escarpment is the proliferation of gooseberry bushes, far from any human habitation. They

ONE CURIOUS

feature of woods

rarely flower or fruit, because they are usually on sunless sites, beneath the tree canopy; hut their sharp spikes make them unmistakeable, and they are among the earliest shrubs to break into leaf. Their presence is due to badgers and foxes, both of which are partial to fruit. Having gorged themselves in summer gardens or orchards, the scavengers excrete gooseberry seeds, and so propagate the bushes.

SOME TREES, such as sycamores, make use of the wind to spread their seeds, but other species are inadvertently disseminated by wild creatures. Jays carry acorns away from oaks, and either drop them or hide them and forget them. Squirrels also bear off hazel

nuts and beech mast, some of which, if buried, may shoot into seedlings the following spring. The hard seeds of many berries pass unchanged through the digestive tracts of birds, and the tough seeds of weeds such as fat hen and stinging nettle can survive passage through the gut of horse, cow or sheep. Burrs the prickly seed-cases of plants such as goosegrass - stick to the coats of animals or the clothes of humans, and achieve

dispersal that way. DUFF HART-DAVIS

The landowners fear that north- Shropshire: "If you don't know the up so far - a point made by one of to preserve the character of ancient solutely against any form of tresbeen fenced or blocked off. His speolde England - they're the menace." cial interest is in the sunken tracks created by the passage of men, animals and carts over hundreds of years. On such ancient routes, he says, "you're surrounded by histo-

> which date back a thousand years". He contends that the damage to such lanes is "fairly light from any sort of vehicles", and that "in most counties there is absolutely none from recreational vehicles". Almost all the damage that does occur, he maintains, is done by farm tractors and trailers, and by the 4x4 trucks of the utility com-

ry-trees which are very old, hedges

panies and so on. Indeed, he claims that most lanes would positively benefit from an increase in recreational traffic of between 10- and 50-fold, and should he promoted as a "leisure resource". Such extra use, he helieves, would help keep ancient routes clear and maintain their the country, they will take to the character. He is, of course, "ab-

pass", but equally he has no doubt public away from their little bit of

So the argument festers. Meanwhile, the demand for places in which drivers can exercise their 4x4s is enormous. People are happy to pay £25 per car for a cruise along Forestry Commission roads in the nearby Mortimer Forest, even though they scarcely leave hard surfaces. Most of these, though, are beginners, whose Discoveries and Freelanders rarely go off Tarmac, and who have to consult their manuals before they can engage four-wheel drive. Mudpluggers - the true addicts - pay £100 a day or more for instruction in a

really foul environment.

The difficulty is that they actively want what other legitimate users of the countryside most hate - ruts, slippery slopes, water, mud up to the axles; and if they find such amenities freely available in

THE INDEPENDENT Log Effect Bird Box

eration any impact on environ-

entirely on evidence gleaned from

historical records. When a decision

month in which to prepare counter-

claims; hut the inspectors who

preside over the inquiry are equally

bound by history, and they may not

take environmental considerations

This is patently ridiculous, and

misses the essential point that

vehicular rights were established by

horse-drawn carts, hundreds of

years before the internal combustion

In Dr Harrison's view: "The trou-

ble is that research in the public

records is laborious and technical.

The 4x4 clubs are well-funded, and

they've retained a lawyer who can

devote a major percentage of his time to this work. In effect, they're

doing the council's work for them.

Most of the objectors are farmers,

who have neither the time nor the

training to prepare counter-claims."

into account.

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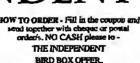
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blue tits, pied flycatchers,

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A blot that became beautiful

One of England's largest power stations cast a shadow over Miranda Seymour's childhood.

But now its cooling towers and monumental walls have created their own eco-system

MY FATHER, a man of quicksilver moods, plunged into a gloom that spread through the house like a cloak of fog when one of England's biggest power stations was located a mile from our front door. True, a hill stood between us, but it wasn't exactly Everest. Growing, it seemed as if the thing would carry on like the

Power stations are landmarks of the 20th century

father had his eyes fixed on the eight cooling towers and a chimney which, we heard, was going to be the tallest in the Perspective plays wonderful A well-meaning few said the tricks. The chimney, reaching its final majestic height, poked its snout above the hill just far The rashest pointed to where the snout loomed above the garden and said, with horror in their voices: "And what in God's guests who hadn't heard my name is that?"

They weren't asked back. Noise was also to be igit," we pleaded. "Look the other nored, even when the thing roared like a beast above the Wise visitors, taken out to polite clatter of plates around pheasants were the first to

admire the estate, stared res- our breakfast-table. Later, olutely in the opposite direction. when my father got his sense of humour back, he was able to towers were rather splendid. grin about the time he had called the noise monitor over and told him to bring a tape recorder. The only noise recorded in three excru-

ciatingly long hours was the

sound of two swans flapping

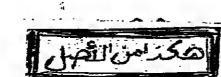
their wings. Thirty years on, the station is part of the landscape. The

realise they were on to a good thing and to defect, en masse, to roost among the cooling towers. Foxes, patrolling the skyline, glare through the wire mesh fence at a hillside - the station side, not ours - as rich in rabbits as Watership Down. On the river, where thousands of tepid gallons are belched back into the Trent every day, the anglers crow that they've never had it so good. In the warm dark ponds at the base of the cooling towers, gigantic carp breed and circle in a state of mindless pleasure, safe in the knowledge that the longest rod in the world is never going to reach them through a wall of

The bicycle path went; others, in spitting distance of the towers, survived. Walking last and a pretty hump-backed bridge by a shop where my brother and I used to buy Walls cornets and - it seemed so sophisticated - bottles of dandelion and hurdock fizz, I cient civilisation, I'd think this thought I'd walked into the

past. Until, that is, the sun went in and I looked round to see why. Lying in the shadow of the towers, 100 yards away, there's a farm and a paddock where Sebastopol geese, chickens, Aylesbury ducklings and o cou-ple of peacocks keep company with two friendly lurchers and a donkey. A few yards further on, one of the prettiest small churches I know keeps quiet guard over its alabaster nionuments and effigies. You could be in the 17th century until you walk out of its wooden door, smack up against the station.

I used to hate it. Now, I drug visitors up for a sunset stroll on the hilltop. Look one way and you see green fields, the redbrick chimneys and curving gables of a Jacobean house lying at its ease among oaks week along a towpath to a lock and larches and cedars. Look the other, and you see a 20thcentury fortress rising from the plain, its massive walls flushed pink by a hectic sky. If I'd come back from some anwas a temple of the Gods.



beanstalk all the way to the sky.

I snivelled when I saw my

favourite bicycle path disappear

under a mountain of coal; my

enough to earn the name

"George's Folly" from playful

father on the subject. We always

warned them. "Don't mention

way. Pretend it isn't there."

whole of Europe.



AMPLINA.

RHS

INDEPENDENT ADVICE FOR THE INDEPENDENT TRAVELLER: FROM THE ONLY NATIONAL NEWSPAPER TRAVEL SECTION THAT REFUSES FREE TRIPS

In the first of two articles about Jamaica, James Ferguson discovers that there's more to the island's cuisine than rice 'n' peas

Jamaican publisher friend of mine, Ian, peering approvingly into a large pot of poiled dumplings and ams, says: "This is food." It's not meant as a value judgement - there's no stress on the "this". It's simply a linguistic clarification, because the starchy, stodgy tuberous bits of the Caribbean diet, also sometimes known as "ground provisions", are simply called "food" in Jamaica. These rib-sticking delicacies have many names - pump-kin, yams, eddoes, dasheen - but to the untutored palate they all taste pretty much the same. Rather solid.

That food and starch should be synonymous in this part of the world doesn't come entirely as a surprise. Jamaican cooking is calorific, to say the least, with the emphasis on frying and baking, and favoured ingredients that include coconut milk, hutter and condensed milk. A Jamaican Sunday brunch would be considered meagre without boiled green bananas, fried plantains, rice n' peas and - when in season -roasted breadfruit. And those are just the side dishes.

It seems that a love of stodge runs deep among the many different peoples who have inhabited this fertile island over the centuries. The indigenous Tainos left a taste for cassava, which remains as an ingredient in the present-day "hammy", a flat, round bread. Their Spanish tormentors introduced not only sugarcane, but bananas and rice too. The British are responsible for dumplings and potatoes, while the Africans they shipped over into slavery introduced such heavyweight delicacies as "festival", a deep-fried cylinder of cornmeal.

But carbohydrate isn't the whole story. Subtle - and less than subtle herbs and spices are intrinsic to Jamaican cooking and similarly reflect the island's mixed cultural history. Curry came with 19th century indentured Indian labourers, while scorchingly hot chilli Trobably reflects a Spanish love of the coliente. As in all Caribbean Creole cultures, the result of mixed European. African and Asian influences

is an intriguing blend of tastes. The idea was for Ian and me to drive around the island, sampling some of these tastes in a culinary circuit. He assured me that each of the island's 14 parishes had a particu-lar delicacy and that most of them could be tried at the roadside (the variety and quality of "street foods" are a particular feature of Jamaican



Starchy, stodgy, tuberous vegetables, like the pumpkins and yams sold in Montego Bay, are simply called "food" in Jamaica Duvid Cummings/Eye Ubiquitous

Yam, bam, thanks mam

imised). All this, moreover, was to be done in a spirit of research: having already published a Jamaican cookery book, Ian was interested in a parish-by-parish follow-up. This was to be a sort of recce.

First, Ringston. A large, steamy. traffic-clogged city, with some distinctly dodgy areas, and not really on the tourist map. But even so, it has several very good restaurants and a network of Tastee patty outlets, which sell the ubiquitous and delicious Jamaican snack for about 20 pence a time. While lingering on the streets after dark isn't perhaps a great idea, I felt sufficiently bold to try some drum chicken. This is the I found amusing (Ian didn't).

eating, he said - turnover is quick urban version of rural jerk chicken, and food-poisoning risks min-seasoned and barbecued in an oil seasoned and barbecued in an oil drum. Billowing and pungent smoke leads you to these roadside vendors, and a parcel of tender and spicy chicken pieces costs about £1.50.

Setting off early up towards Ocho Rios, we drove over the central mountains. After deep and dark river gorges and mountainside bends, the road emerges onto a plateau at Moneague, where a row of some 30 shacks awaits the peckish passer by. They compete fiercely, offering grilled corn on the cob. curry goat, oxtail soup and, of course, jerk chicken. Jerk chicken, is not hard to find. Every village seems to have a "jerk centre", which

Heading west along the coast and watching the Japanese guests), road, we gave the all-inclusive we continued hungrily along the resorts and condominiums a wide berth, passing through decaying market towns and half-built tourist strips until reaching Montego Bay (apparently a corruption of the Spanish manteca, or lard). The scruffy town centre seems to be in a state of continual gridlock, a situation which may explain the unusual incidence of hmacy - one eccentric woman insisted on licking our car windows. Our appetites duly dampened, we none the less managed to eat "one pot" bowls of red pea soup - a stew so thick that one pot is all you need.

Cursing our overnight stay in the knowy Half Moon Club at MoBay (eating bland, imported gravadlax

Savanna-la-Mar to the atmospheric and rather rundown town of Blueroad. Ian grew more cheerful as we fields. It was time for another meal neared his home parish of Hanover. and I had a thick and delicious fish Like all Kingston residents, he soup - much better, I thought, than waxes lyrical about a fast-disapthe bony escoveitch. We settled for pearing rural Jamaica, and I could just a few bammies and a bag of see his point as we drove through ackee to take back to Kingston. ramshackle-but-pretty villages, and A few hours later in Mandeville. plantations of coconut palms. The as if by some natural metabolic sea is always nearby at this western

self-defence mechanism, I had detip of the island, so it seemed like a veloped raging toothache. Despite good idea to try some fish. Escovthat, the trip up to Boston Bay in eitch is the name given to the mari-Portland parish on the north-east tip was deemed compulsory. Two hours nade of vinegar, onions and hot red peppers into which the fried fish is and many potholes from Kingston, immersed. Well, I think that was the this is the home of authentic jerk system, even though it seemed the food, the style of cooking that reputedly started with the Tainos. Chicken or pork is marinaded in a We carried on south through

mix of spices and then barbecued over pimento wood in a special pit dug in the ground. Alas, us the midst of torrential rain we were the only tourists - or researchers - on the culinary circuit and lan suddenly announced that the pork was less than fresh. Unfortunate really, since I had already eaten half of mine and spent the rest of the day fearfully awaiting retribution. It never came.

After so much roadside sustenance, I wasn't exactly hungry, but was keen to meet Norma Shirley; the queen of new Jamaican cooking and the inspiration behind Norma at the Wharlhouse, near Montego Bay, and Red Bones in Kingston. These places are chic, expensive (£30-40 a head), and anything hut stodgy. At Red Bones, I had chicken breast in fromage frais and champagne sauce on a guava coulis. And no "food".

Norma used to be a nurse in London, married a doctor, and once lived in the posh Dulwich estate where Mrs Thatcher bought a house, She had discovered good food during trips to France, had worked in a Berkshire restaurant and moved to New York before returning to Jamalca. She is now a star, the subject of TV shows and Vogne features.

Much Jamaican food is unhealthy. she admits, and she caters to a small. discriminating clientele, using olive oil and herbs, but little salt. Her trademark ingredients, it seems, are thyme, scallion and Scotch bonnet red peppers. Wherever possible, she says, she uses local ingredients, preferably from the mountainous interior near the town of Christiana. Not far from cool, upland Mandeville, this is smallholder country and reputedly the best place for organic vegetables, Nor-ma dismisses the "waxed apple syn-drome" of imported American food, the kind of synthetic stuff that she says is dished out in the all-inclusives.

I ventured to ask her what her favourite meal might be. "Oxtail and stew peas," she replied promptly. That might not be "food" but it's still pretty Jamaican.

British Airways and Air Jamaica fly to Kingston and Montego Bay. There are also a great many connecting flights from Miami.

Red Bones in Kingston is nt 21 Braemar Avenue (001 876 978 8262); Norma at the Wharfhouse is at Reading, west of Montego Bay (001 876 979 2745). A good book on the island's food is Enid Donaldson's Real Taste of Jamaica' (Ian Randle, £12.95).

James Ferguson is the author of 'The Traveller's History of the Caribbean (Windrush Press, £8.99)

Women are sex tourists too

Is it the romance that women are paying for in Jamaica? Or is it a feeling of power that they can't get at home? By Sue Wheat

THE CARIBBEAN is marketed as Paradise, And for many, an important element of Paradise is being adored. Many single white women visiting Jamaica will discover that there is no shortage of Jamaican men willing to earn money from spending time with female tourists. Some are paid cash, hut more often than not their payment is in the form of meals, clothes, or the promise of a visa to the West.

A British sociologist, Jackie Sanchez-Taylor from Leicester University, has found that almost half the women she questioned in Negril, Jamaica, had had one or more sexual relationships with a Jamaican man while on holiday. Their justifisitions were not unlike those * ade by their male counterparts - that the people they have sex with are not like "ordinary prostitutes" and are less critical than partners at home.

"Today, some female sex tourists are travelling to reaffirm their femininity," Jackie Sanchez-Taylor explains in her book, Tourism, Travel and Sex. "Women who feel rejected by men in the West are 'sweettalked' and 'loved' by men abroad, and once again find that they exist as sexual objects."



Shirley Valentine had to go abroad to be appreciated

to be fawned over by highly desirable men. But not all women are overcoming insecurities. back home. Some are just looking for an unpressurised good time, aren't how long the relationship lasts, and to have a relationship with the type of person not normally

available to them. "Where at home they might be stigmatised for having relations with black men, younger men, 'womanisers', or for having many sexual partners," says Ms Sanchez-Taylor, "in holiday resorts such as Negril, So, as Shirley Valentine they are permitted to 'con-

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demonstrated, hy travelling sume' the hlack male, the across the world, it's possible younger boy, the playboy or as many men as they desire while maintaining their reputation

So, for once, they can experience feeling more powerful they? In this case, what they get than a man - and particularly is power - the power to decide a black man, a person who they may stereotypically think of as "hypersexual" or "dangerous" at home.

But control over a sexual relationship is not the main objective for all female sex tourists. Many prefer to use their power to affirm themselves as kind, caring women. For example, one Canadian interviewee, a divorcee near retirement age, conducted a lished by Pinter later this year

Carlebean Sea

long-distance romance for 18 months with a Jamaican "countryman" 20 years her junior, who "lived the simple life of a farmer in the mountains". She sent him money and brought gifts from Canada and taught him to read, write and appreciate classical music.

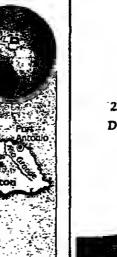
"She said she didn't want someone who would swamp her with emotional demands When she visits, she spends her time huying him shorts and shirts and cooking him big pots of food because when she goes back to Canada he eats very little," explains Ms Sanchez-Taylor

So by being the farmer's "civilising" influence, the woman is using sex tourism to reassert herself.

Many tourist women find the idea of caring for and taming a "noble savage" romantic. "Gigolos" in Negril are quick to tap into this demand and many claim to be "country farmers' who only venture into Negril now and then to sell products they have grown or made. They become mirrors which reflect the female sex tourist's chosen image of femininity.

Tourism, Travel and Sex', Eds S Clift and S Carter, is pub-





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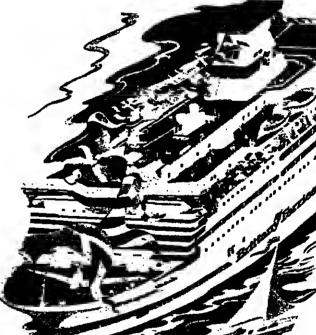
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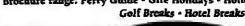
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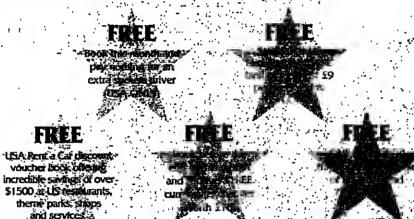
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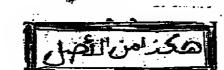
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Beware of low flying fruit

At Mardi Gras, the Belgian town of Binche is pelted with oranges by men in padded suits. By Clare Thomson



The Gilles, young men from Binche, dress up like escapees from a Wonderland emergency ward and pound the streets, acting out ancient fertility rites

Charles Lenars

But Mardi Gras is what they've

all been waiting for Men are reduced

to tears when they talk about wear-

ing the Gilles suit, while mothers

admit to weeping with pride as their

spotless sons leave the house before

dawn, to return in a somewhat more

spattered state the following morn-

ing. Gilles drink only champagne

throughout the day, and the bubbly

rget sweaty spectacles in Rio or pancaketossing rituals in Pangbourne; to the citizens of Binche, Belgium's carnival capital, Mardi Gras is a chance to paint the town red. Blood-red.

And, if you visit the former mining town in the run-up to carnival, you'll see shopkeepers frantically masking their windows with chicken wire. On Mardi Gras afternoon, you'll unpadded suits and fluffy feather headdresses pelt buildings and bystanders with blood oranges, gleefully smashing unprotected

Around 300,000 fruit are lobbed during a two-hour riot that leaves the town centre moist with pulp and, although revellers may no longer hurl broomheads or flour at people who whey think aren't joining in, that proves to be small comfort if you happen to have copped a fruit flush on the temple.

The fun-loving Binchois have per-formed similar rituals for the best part of a thousand years. In the 16th century, when the town was favoured by a Low Countries governor, Mary of Hungary, revellers across the Habsburg empire boasted that their wildest exploits were mas bravas que las fiestas de Bains [the old name for the town]. Despite spiralling unemployment, the carnival remains as intact as the 12th-century ramparts that ring its centre, making this Belgium's only walled city. Festival songs say that, come Carnaval, young men spend their

Journey to the source

JOURNEY is really complete without a souvenir or two. So,

long sacrifice. What with costume rental, society subscriptions, drink and insurance, the bill can come to over £1,000 per participant. At the Carnaval's beart are the

year's earnings in less than a week;

in fact, the event requires year-

Gilles, weirdly costumed figures who stomp the streets with hypnotic regularity throughout Mardi Gras, recalling ancient fertility rites to ban-With be-clogged feet, straw-stuffed and suits adorned with bons, crowns and stars, they look like escapees & Emergency Department. Folklore has it that they were born 450 years ago, when Mary's courtesans dressed as Incas to celebrate the conquest of Peru, but scholars say that the Gille is an 18th-century street-theatre character, a cousin of

Harlequin who possesses ancient magical powers.

For a Binchois, becoming a Gille is the highest honour imaginable. Veterans proudly boast that, while other festive traditions have been debased down the years, their carnival remains as authentic as ever. That's partly due to a sense of insularity, of being walled in against the world (locals say that there are ish evil spirits from the winter soil. only two places in the world - Binche and abroad). It's also down to the toms are maintained.

To become a Gille, you must be from a kind of Wonderland Accident male, of Belgian nationality and torn in Binche - or have lived there for five years; once you've attained the hallowed status, you must never wear your costume outside the ramparts of Binche. Woe betide anyone who flouts the rules: if you're seen out of costume, or travelling in a car,

you can be barred from Gillehood for life. Even the elderly or ill must slip into muffi before thumbing a lift. There are a few bonourable exceptions: in 1943, a group of Gilles in a Nazi prison camp defied their oppressors by parading in Carnaval gear made from paper and tin cans.

Mardi Gras is the culmination of weeks of wild parties and a year of preparation. Madness mounts throughout the New Year, when the Gilles amass in front of the onion-Sunday rehearsals, shaking the cobhles of the central square to the ceaseless beat of drums.

The locals shuffle behind the Gilles-in-waiting, inching towards the next tavern and another Binchoise beer tif you need to brush up on the shuffle dance, try to get through to the bar). The Binchois tease any visitors in the relevant dialect, explaining "we love a good laugh". As Carnaval draws near, it's time for gala balls and the anarchic Night of the Trouilles ("pigs") de Nouilles, when heavily disguised local wits enter bars, cafés and homes, poking fun at customers and demanding a free drink. But the weeks of ribaldry are only a prelude to the chaos that cuts loose over the

Gras, when men dress as women, or their mates and downing a fluteful Mam'zelles, and the Gilles-to-be at every stop. As a symbol of equalluxurious costumes. Favourites include Madame de Pompadour, England's Elizabeth I and Tintin characters, but there's plenty of room for topical improvisation. Monday is a chance for diehard ravers to get their breath back, a family day when the youth groups of the town's political parties settle their scores in confetti battles.

flows from 5am as the Gilles waddle The riot begins on Dimanche from bouse to house, collecting ity, they wear wax masks painted with green spectacles and curling ginger whiskers. Unless you have friends in Binche, you're unlikely to see this ritual, although in recent years tourists have turned up uninvited at private homes, with nary a bottle of Bolly for their hosts. Better to arrive around 8am as bundreds of Gilles converge on the station, a mock-Gothic vaulted marvel that recalls the town's industrial peak.

The Carnaval kings abandon their masks after hunch, donning the feathers as the orange-throwing begins. At night, the Pierrots, Harlequins and Oriental princes join the Gilles, juicing the ground for bours on end as fireworks detonate around them. Those with staying power stomp 'til dawn, sustained by drink and the never-ending drums.

There's only one hotel in town, so you're better off staying in Brussels or in nearby Mons. Stagger back to the station at dawn as the Gilles retreat in a hungover haze, and ponder next year's bash - and this



SIMON CALDER

After many delays. the 'Caledonian 300 resisted air rage and just applauded

IN A week when the phrase "Airtours Twelve" entered the travel vocabulary. Dennis Hill writes from his hotel in Goa to report a less celebrated but more heartening episode involving a group of people I shall dub "the Caledonian 300".

Caledonian Airways flight 26 was due to leave Gatwick for Goa at 4.15pm on Friday last, When Mr Hill arrived from his home at Leigh-on-Sea in Essex, he found the flight delayed because the inbound plane was late. Once the passengers were finally on board, a series of events took place which Mr Hill describes entertainingly:

"No sooner were the passengers loaded and welcomed than the captain had the embarrassment of telling us to get off. Apparently the ground engineers found it necessary to inflate the olio (whatever that is). With a full load of fuel and passengers, the weight was too great for this to be accomplished.

"Boarding for the second time, the captain explained that because we had missed the departure slot, our flight would hang around at the end of the runway to be fitted in between the scheduled flights.

"Eventually clearance was obtained. The TriStar surged down the runway, suddenly to be thrown into a dramatic emergency stop with brakes fully applied and reverse thrust operating. The captain immediately assured us that there was nothing wrong with the alreraft, but that air traffic control had found us too near another plane and had

"Now the captain had to break the news that the emergency stop at 100mph caused overheating of the brakes and it would take 30-45 minutes for them to cool. "Sometime later the

captain announced: 'I really don't know whether to laugh or cry - the fire tender has got stuck in soft ground under the port wing and we now await a hreakdown truck to tow it away.' Eventually the tender was removed, and a smooth take-off and normal flight to Goa ensued."

A recipe for air rage once the drinks trolley had done the rounds? Not a bit of it. "The behaviour of the passengers was exemplary: no outward display of unease, no jeers or caustic comments. The applause that greeted our airborne state was supportive, not derisive. It made an exciting start to our holiday."

FACT FILE



The Binche Carnaval begins on 14 February and grinds to a halt at dawn on 17 February.

For details of accommodation in Binche or Mons, call Binche tourist office on 00 32 64 336727. or the Francophone part of the Belgian tourist office in London, on 0171-458 2888.

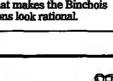
By rail, Eurostar (0990 186186) offers a £89 return from London to Binche (or anywhere else in Belgium) via Brussels. Book a week in advance and stay away a Saturday night. For Brussels-Binche connections, call Belgian Railways (0171-593 2332).

By air, the main carrier to Belgium is Sabena (0181-780 1222), which flies to Brussels from Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds-Bradford, Manchester and Newcastle. From Heathrow.

Gatwick and Stansted, Virgin Express (0800 891199) offers one way tickets from £39. By train, Binche is around one hour from Brussels airport.

Binche is bome to the Carnaval and Mask Museum (10 Rue Saint-Moustier, 0032 64 335741), which has the largest collection of masks in the world; until 18 April, it hosts a show devoted to Swiss revelry that makes the Binchois celebrations look rational.







THE SHOPPING FORECAST

rather than being an afterthought at the duty-free counter, why not make shopping the basis of your itinerary? Some of the world's best travel destinations are also the sources of the world's

favourite products, so get out there and get

Hilton Hotel in Nuweiba makes it possible to combine the inscinating sites of St Catherine's Monastery with the 'rose red' city of Petra. The journey is further made possible by the direct flights from London Gatwick to Sharm elshalth and the rutular force complete to Agaba.

Our journey commences with a four-night stay at

the Coral Hilton Resort at Nuweiba. This will be

our base both for relaxation on the Red Sea coast to entay the winter sunshine and our visits to St Catherine's Monastery and the Coloured Canyon. On Day 5 transfer by hydrofoil to Agaba and travel north by road to Petra and the Petra Forum hotel for the north the said the said

for the next three nights.

During the stay at Petra we will visit various areas of the site tentrance fee not included and make optional visits to Little Petra and Wadi Rum, the heating of Petral Land Side of Archiville.

hication of David Lean's film 'Lawrence of Arabia'.

On Day 8 drive to Agaba for the regular passenger service to Sharm el-Sheikh and the return flight

THE PETRA FORUM HOTEL

This 4-star hotel is satuated close to Petra. The 149 terrace /pool tooms each has private facilities, air-conditioning, pool and shops.

Sheikh and the regular ferry services to Aqaba.

If you're planning a visit to Jamaica (see page 19), it makes sense to explore the area that gives its name to Blue Mountain coffee, first produced in Jamaica in 1757 and now sipped by wealthy caffeine-consumers the world over

The Caribbean Islands Handbook (Footprint Books, £14.99) describes these moun7.402ft at Blue Mountain Peak, as "one of the most spectacular and beautiful parts of Jamaica". Teh book also gives handy advice for anyone venturing into this coffee-producing area.

Public transport is infrequent, so drive up past the Blue Mountain Inn, through Mavis Bank and into Hagley

tains, which rise to a beight of Gap. From here, the steep but signposted trail to Blue Mountain Peak takes three to four bours up and two to three

> The views are more worthy of the climb later in the day. Along the way, the lower slopes are covered in intensely verdant vegetation, banana plantations and, of course, coffee

and dwarf forest appear and, if you're lucky, a doctor bird or two. This swallow-tailed bummingbird is Jamaica's national bird and fairly common

Should all the climbing make you thirsty, you have two options. The first is to stock up locally: you can stopp off on your way back at Mavis Bank Central Factory (001 876 977 8528 or e-mail: jablum@wt jam.net). One of the oldest and largest coffee producers on the island, the factory sells the real Blue Mountain stuff for US\$19 per lb (£11). Or you can pick up a reasonably-priced bag in the dutyfree shop.

If the island doesn't feature in your immediate travel plans, nip down to the just-opened Jamaica Blue Mountain Coffee Shop, at 18a, Maddox Street, London W1 (0171-408 2272). A pound of Blue Mountain coffee bere costs £28, but if the British price makes you wince, sit back and soothe your aching wallet with a cup of Blue Mountain Filter Coffee (£1.30) instead. This chic cafe is open Monday to Friday 7.30am to 7.30pm and on

Saturdays 10am to 5pm. On Thursday evenings, when the place is open until 10pm, you can listen to live Jamaican music and dream of funding your Jamaican jaunt by

buying up enough coffee to cash in on back home. The profit from only 15 bags of Jamaican-bought coffee could buy you the current £249 return charter fare to Montego Bay with Jetline (0171-360 1111).

Gadget of the week IF YOU want to arrive at your stination looking fresh-faced and ready to rumble your way through the urban jungle, help is at hand in a little 50ml tube.

One of the main culprits in disembarking from an aeroplane looking puffy-faced and pal-lid is often not the lack of sleep, free booze or even unscheduled diversions. Pressurised cabin air can be extremely drying - particularly on skin that's already

had to deal with the impact of sun, sand and too many happyhour cocktails, So, next time you pack your

suitcase, forget the bottle of baby oil and stock up instead on SkyHydra, a new moisturiser designed for use on long-haul flights. Available duty free (£14.95) at many British airports, or by mail order (£18.95 with duty) on 01634 226203, moisturising ingredients include pro-vitamin B5, vitamin E. coconut oil, calendula and



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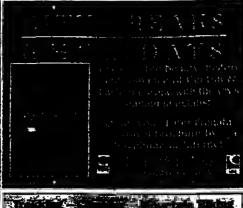


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A high point of the Alps

A favourite with the élite, Garmisch-Partenkirchen is still to be discovered by the masses. By Stephen Wood

t was the Nazis who made Garmisch-Partenkirchen a big name in the skiing world. There had been skiing and ski-jumping in the area around the Zugspitze, Germany's highest mountain, since the beginning of the century; but it was the decision to hold the 1936 Winter Olympics there that made the resort's name - Hitler ordered that the neighbouring Bavarian villages of Garmisch and Partenkirchen should be joined together, with a hyphen, to organise the games - and led to the creation of many of its winter-sports facilities.

The U-shaped arena at the bottom of the ski-jumps survives in its original form, the grandstands not quite tall enough to be truly triumphant but none the less heroic in their fascist detailing. The huge ice rink remains, too, although it has been extensively remodelled Garmisch-Partenkirchen's skiing reputation lives on thanks to its anoual staging of a blue-riband event in the World Cup racing series. And the resort has become a member of the élite Best of the Alps association. grouping it with such posh places as Cortina, Davos and St Moritz.

Yet Garmisch-Partenkirchen to save ink, let's call it GP - has not caught on with British skiers. Whereas in other established European resorts one would expect to see Britons first or second in the list of visitor nationalities, in GP we fall far behind the top two, the ISA and, astonishingly, Japan. As far as I am aware, the only British tour operator offering ski packages there, in a couple of pages of its standard hrochure, is the Leicester-based

German specialist, Moswin Tours. With the advent of Go's £80 Stansted-Munich return flights, however, it's easy and cheap enough to go skiing in GP without the help of a tour operator. Regular trains from the airport go into Munich's main station, from which there is an hourly service to GP (the journey takes about 80 minutes). And right alongside GP's



running almost to the peak. The weekend before last, I set off for a couple of days' skiing there.
The P part of the resort,

Partenkirchen, lay on the old coaching route south from Munich across the Alps to Austria and Italy. On the eastern side of the valley through which it passed is a mountain - and small ski area - called Wank (which doesn't amuse the Germans, but gave me some solitary pleasure); to the south-west is the range which climbs towards the 2,628m Alpspitze, whose vast east-facing snow slope dominates the skyline, and up to the 2,964m Zugspitze peak.

Having arrived late on Friday, I spent Saturday on the larger of GP's two separate main ski areas, which runs off the side of the Alpspitze. Served by three cable-cars, all close to stations on the Zugspitzbahn, it is dominated by red runs, either wide and easy pitches below the lifts or pistes which sweep down through the forest. The best of the descents, bowever, is a black, the Kandabar piste used for the anmual World Cup downhill race.

Although the descents - especially the Kandahar - were great fun, it was the wrong weekend to ski the wider pitches, what with a "children ski free" promotion and the German pharmacists' annual skiing championship. Dodging chemists and kids, I headed up to the top of the ski area to find a far more entertaining hazard: dogs. An avalanche rescue

sniffers and diggers to drag-lift techniques. The advanced dogs endured their obvious embarrassment at being wrapped around the handlers' shoulders; the beginners suffered the greater shame of being carried in a bright-pink contraption somewhere reen a waistcoat and a handbag.

I talked to one of the handlers after he had been knocked off the lift by a squirming young pup. The drag-lift training was, he said, "very difficult". For him or the dogs?

"Both," he replied, in a tired voice.
For Sunday's skiing, I took the
early train to the Zugspitze. (I did ask
about the coincidence – Zugspitze translates as "Train Peak" - and was told that it was no more than that.) The train rattles along the valley at a good speed; but to get a grip on the steep part it engages a cog wheel with a sort of metal ladder set between the rails, and grinds its way slowly up the 1400m ascent. The whole laborious commuter trip - of 17km - took 80 minutes, almost as long as the Stansted-Munich flight. The ski area on the Zugspitze glac-

ier offers superb views. But it is small: even a languid skier would cover it in the time taken for a return journey on the Zugspitzbahn. And the skiing is all easy red runs and well-used off-piste slopes - with one notable exception. Although I do not suffer from vertigo, I had some of the symptoms on the area's one rickety chair-lift, hanging off a rockface with Austria, just across the border, spread out below; and I felt the others when it dropped me at the end of a ridge, with steep descents on three sides. The black run off the ridge is also heartin-mouth stuff at the top; but after a steep and narrow runway, it turns into a wide mogul pitch which is amusing rather than threatening.

There are other compensations for the long train journey. A swift cable-car (crowded, on my trip, with sightseers from Japan, for whom the Zugspitzbahn station signs appear thoughtfully in Japanese script) takes you up to the Zugspitze peak, whose block-house tourist centre's attractions include a panoramic Zugspitzbahn, a mountain railway team was introducing its trainee viewing gallery, an excellent restau- ful women looking out are popular). those who share my new enthusiasm Christie's (0171-581 7611) on 25 Feb



Lithograph poster from 1936 advertising the Olympics

rant and, curiously, an art gallery. It's Even modern suburban homes have hard to imagine what could compete with the view from the windows; certainly, the four blue Perspex blocks installed by Roni Horn couldn't. Still, it was an experience: I have never clumped around an art gallery in ski boots before.

An art form indigenous to GP of frescos painted on building façades, was far more diverting. I spent most of my non-skiing time wandering around the resort admiring hiblical scenes and architectural flourishes (fake windows with wist-

the odd knight on horseback brightening up side walls, and I spotted one house on which a superb trompel'oeil façade showed workmen finishing off its construction, with a madorma and child on top of the scaffolding apparently supervising the plasterers and hod-carriers.

That alone was worth the trip. I understand now, however, why skitour operators don't offer GP in their brochures: with such a limited ski area, it wouldn't provide a week's entertainment - except for

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for lüftlmalerei (literally, "outside painting"). But for a weekend's ski-

Stephen Wood paid £80 for a flight to Munich with Go (0845 60 54321). The train to the resort costs DM72 (£26). A one-day ski-pass for all Garmisch-Partenkirchen areas except the Zugspitze costs DM82 (£29), for the Zugspitze DM61 (£22, including train ticket). For Moswin Tours, call 0116-271 9922. A sale of vintage ski posters, such as the one

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NEWS FROM THE TRAVEL WORLD

True or false? Norfolk, Virginia, has two international cirports True. As with many American cities, the home of the US Navy enjoys the choice of two airports: Norfolk International, a sixmile drive north-east from the city centre (for which the airport shuttle bus will charge \$13), and Patrick Kelly International, 12 miles oorth. The former is usually used for diversions of international flights.

Other cities where you may be surprised to find not one but two airports include Houstoo (Intercootineotal and Hobby), Dallas (DFW and Love Field) and Chicago O'Hare and Midway). Your problems get worse if you are trying to find the right airport in New York (three) and Los Angeles (six).

One thing that all these airports have in commoo is that, in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration rules, boarding an aircraft while under the influence of alcohol is oot permitted.

Bargain of the week Montego Bay. Jomaica Airtours (01706 232324) is selling a last-minute deal departing from Gatwick at 9.25am tomorrow. Seven nights at the fully inclusive Sunset beach resort costs £748. The charter flight is due to arrive in Montego Bay at 2.50pm, according to the oormal flight plan.

Trouble spot: Jamaica Latest Foreign Office advice Most visitors eojoy troublefree holidays at resorts. Vigilance is still advisable outside the safety of your hotel. Be alert for bagsnatchers and pickpockets. Do oot carry valuables, large amounts of cash or travel documents unnecessarily. Visitors are advised against walking at night or using public transport. Exercise caution wheo walking in isolated areas even in daylight hours. Do not offer resistance in the event of an attempted robbery.

One woman and her dogs

Christine Campbell travelled across the frozen Canadian wilderness by the same means as the first pioneers - with snow-shoes, skis and a team of badly behaved huskies

quin!" Our instructor had said:

swerved left, and joyfully pro-ceeded to run the full sweep of the clearing - followed by all the

neers" trip was designed to give a taste of the Canadian winter outdoors, and this was a moment of full-velocity pleasure at the end of a three-day excursion into the Algonquin wilderness.

Five of us had left a very wet Toronto two days previously for the four-hour drive north. The plan was to follow in the snowy

footsteps of northern native peoples, using techniques adopted by early European settlers. In the warmth of the van, Angie, our driver, described the activities planned for each day: snow-shoeing, cross-country skiing, and dog-sledding.

We turned off the main road for the last 10km of our journey,

driving over snow and ice-covered dirt-tracks to the cabin which would be our base. This was sufficiently off the beaten track to be without electricity,

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lighting was by kerosene and paraffin lamps, and water was pumped up from the lake through holes in the ice. But wood-burning stoves and the kitchen range made it ideal for defrosting after the activities Angie and her partner in cold, Scott, had in store for us. The first day we snow-shoed.

Made of ash and often laced

so there was no hot water all

with moose hide, the shoes allow you to walk on soft snow without sinking; it took a few minutes of awkward shuffling and tripping over to get used to them, but we soon established a rhythm and headed into the woods north of the lodge. A swathe of boreal forest traverses Ontario and is home to an abundance of animals. At first, our laughter must

have warned the wildlife off, but soon we were silenced by the stillness and beauty of the forest, and snow-shoed quietly through the fresh snow - thighdeep in places - for several miles. Approaching a beaver dam in the evening darkness, we heard the splash of a beaver by the riverbank, and found a sixfoot pine tree lying across the path: it had obviously just been gnawed down and was being dragged to the dam. When we skiled past the next morning, the

job had been completed. The third day's dog-sledding was the highlight of the trip. Leaving early, we drove to Raven's Watch, a 70-dog kennel. The noise was deafening. The dogs were already in teams of four harnessed in ganglines, and desperate to run. These were Siberian huskies, graceful and intelligent dogs with erect ears and a dense, soft coat. One persoo per sled, four dogs per person, with a guide in front and behind us.

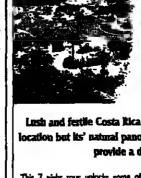
The first few minutes were

dizzyingly fast, and in the adrenalin rush I clung oo tightly and tried to remember any of what I'd just been taught. At this point, the dogs were merely intent oo catching up with the team in front, allowing me time to remember to keep breathing, and find a comfortable position oo the runners.

We spent an exhilarating few hours mushing along snowcovered trails, gaining confidence in commanding our teams as we took corners with a cry of "gee" or "haw". Going uphill we jumped off and ran with the sled in order to relieve the weight for the dogs, then a few seconds later we were back on board, hunched down on the brake and trying to slow down so that the same sled wouldn't catch the hind legs of the dogs as we sped downhill.

On the last evening, we took a moonlit trip out to an island oear the centre of the frozen lake, some on skis, some on soowshoes. An almost full moon in a cloudless and starty sky reflected off the snow, and I stayed outside long after the others had gone back, listening to the water flowing from the beaver dam a mile or so away, and watching the moon sink below the treeline.

Christine Campbell paid C\$395 (£160) for the three-day trip, including food, accommodation and travel from Toronto, through Voyager Quest (001



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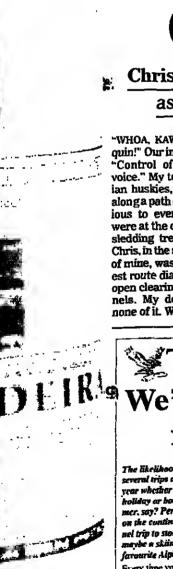
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Control of the dogs is by voice." My team of four Siberian huskies, however, hurtled The "Footsteps of the Pioalong a path of their own, oblivious to every command. We were at the end of a 15km dogsledding trek, and our guide Chris, in the sled directly ahead of mine, was taking the shortest route diagonally across an open clearing back to the kennels. My dogs were having none of it. With one mind they *THE INDEPENDENT We've got you covered from under £52 The likelihood is that you may take several trips away in the course of a year whether it be for business or holiday or both. A week in the sum-mer, say? Perhaps a short city break on the continent." A weekend channel trip to stock up on your wine? Or maybe a skiing holiday to your favourite Alpine resort? Every time you go away the insurance costs mount up - unless you have an printed insurance policy. And, if you don't have annual cover then there's the bother of arranging cover each and every time. The Independent Angual Travel number, arranged with General Accident who are one of the biggest and best known names in insurance, Only will save you not only money but me inc. providing cover for any INDIVIDUAL COVE upiber of holidays each of up to 31 -51.59 days duration during the year. The 289.59 Worldwide policy provides cover for one sports boliday of up to 17 days duration. FAMILY COVER Two versions of the policy are available, one for Europe and one for Worldwick cover: there are individual

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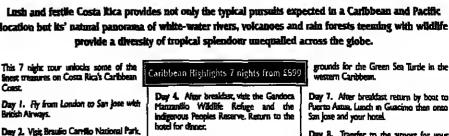
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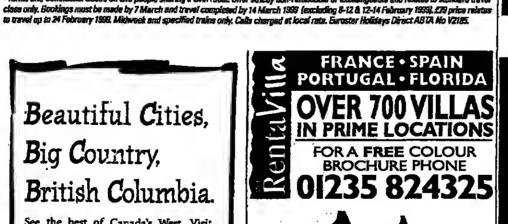
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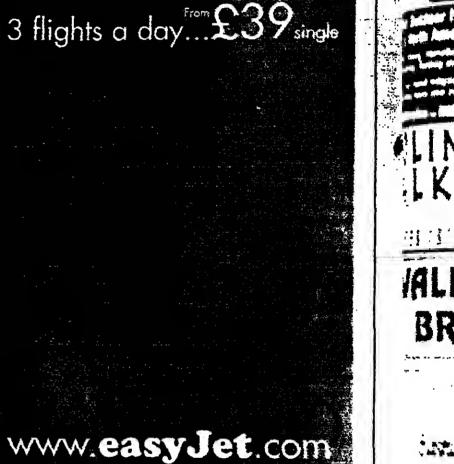
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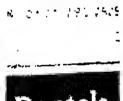
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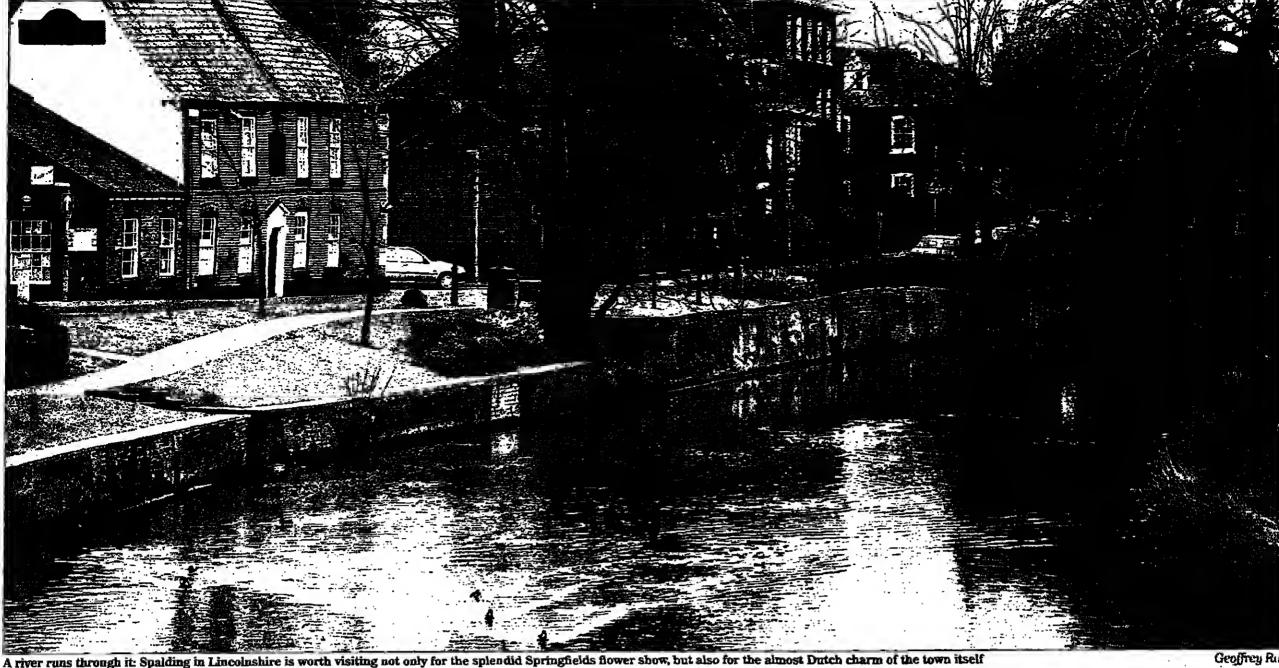
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Tiptoe through the tulips

You don't have to go to Holland to get a taste of spring - in Spalding there are multi-coloured flowers galore. By Geoffrey Roy

chance to sample a taste of spring – and you don't. need to travel as far as the Netherlands to catch it. As a matter of fact, you need travel no further afield than the Lincolnshire Fens to find Britain's very own Spring Garden of Europe. This weekend, Spalding Armed with a copy of the Tourist hosts the Springfields '99 flower Board's Spalding Town Walk Guide show, where thousands of daffodils, hyacinths, tulips and numerous other flowering bulbs and scrubs will provide an extra

e may be in the Holland", the "Holland" part of the Georgian houses, old warehouses name does not allude to the tulips that were once abundant here but, rather, is a reference to the Anglo-Saxon word for high ground. Despite this confusion, Spalding itself has a very Dutch feel. The town lies astride the River Welland, which sweeps through the town in a deep tidal channel and gives this sleepy little place much of its character.

(20p), I set off to explore. From earliest times, the River Welland brought trade to the area; corn and potatoes flowing out, umber and coal—church of St. Mary rounding area is known as "South the river are lined with dignified modern progress has added to the

and mills, and modern structures which are in keeping with the town's ambience and make a walk along the river's edge a pleasure. Numerous Victorian footbridges span the river along the way, making access to both

As land was gradually reclaimed from the marshes in this area, thanks would often be given by building a church. These religious buildings would then become the focus of surrounding farms, often developing into the centrepiece of a growing town. This is obviously the case in Spalding and the parish and St Nicolas. flowing in. Sauggled within the medieval in origin but with a disprecincts of the town, the banks of tinctly Norman feel to it. Sadly,

town's architecture in the shape of an Admiral van Enkhuijsen bulb, one a modern supermarket building at Spalding's heart. One of the largest attractions in

the area, however, is the bulb fields and people have been travelling to Spalding since before the Second World War on organised tours to revel in the beauty of Lincolnshire's bulb fields. Over the last hundred years, since flowers began to be grown commercially, Lincolnshire's bulb fields have grown substantially from a smallholding of 500 acres in 1900, selling exclusively to London's Covent Garden, to more than 10,000 acres producing 25,000 boxes of dattodus a da throughout the world.

Netherlands from 1634 to 1637, when were coming in more than 100

of the rarest and most beautiful tulips, could fetch 5,400 guilders about 15 years' wages for the average Dutch worker of the time - but tulips didn't arrive in Lincolnshire until 1907 when Frederick Culpin brought in 100 bulbs of six different varieties and established the British tulip fields. When tulips were at the peak of their popularity, there were about 3,000 acres growing but today the tulip fields have diminished to lit-

tle more than 300 acres. The first flower-hunting excursions here began as long ago as 1935, when the area had over 300 visitors arriving from London by train and roughout the world.

"Tulipmania" raged in the By 1949, more than 100,000 people spring through the bulb fields of

coaches and 6-7,000 cars to explore the area. Special daily sightseeing routes were established to enable the visitors to see the best of the day's blooming flowers. The bulb season in the Fens

begins with the Springfields show

and ends with the Spalding Flower Parade and Spring Festival in the first week of May. The Springfields flower show started up in 1966 with the purpose of the study and proper cultivation of flowers grown from bulbs and corms. For the last 23 years, there have also been displays, and the appeal of the Springfields displays stems undoubtedly from the chance they ofter to bush away the spring through the bulb fields of

Springfields '99, a 12,000saft display of landscaped bods of tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, flowering scrubs and miscellaneous hulbs, takes place this weekend from 11am to 5pm. Admission costs £2.50 for adults and is free for under-tis. There is wheelchair access and there will be restaurants and bars open all weekend.

From about 4pm on Sunday, all the flowers on display are sold off. To get there, toke the A1 to Peterborough, then follow the A1139 to Eye Green where you should follow the A1073 through Crowland and Cowbit to Spalding. Directions to the Springhelds Exhibition Hal will be signposted. For information call 01775 713253 or consult the

FLOWER FESTIVALS OF BRITAIN

Lacock Abbey

This 13th-century abbey, near to Chippenham, nestles in the midst of Wiltshire's chalky hills. Lacock itself is an attractively traditional village that has timber-and-plaster houses and grid-mapped streets included in its territory, and the abbey is the place to head for if you're in search of snowdrops.

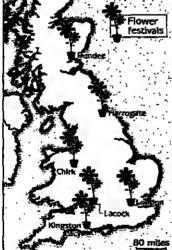
This is the perfect time of year to visit the surrounding Victorian woods as snowdrops cover the ground - a welcome reminder that spring is on the way - and other flowers bloom throughout the cloistered gardens. Over the next few months you may catch sight of Crocus vernus, aconites,

fritillaries and later, daffodils. On 13 and 14 and 20 and 21 February, from noon until 5pm, the gardens and woods will be opening specially to raise money for the National Gardens scheme. Admission: £1.80 for adults, free for children. For further details call 01249 730459.

Harrogate Spring Flower Show

This Victorian spa town is sombre yet elegant, with dark stone buildings, a large, grassy parkland known as the "Stray" and numerous cosy tea rooms These features make the town an ideal location for the spring flower show, which boasts the largest daffodil display in the north of England. The show also includes an early tulip display, numerous other flower arrangements, and stalls from

more than 90 nurseries. The event takes place at the Great Yorkshire Show Ground from 22 to 25 April. Admission: £8-£10, with a £2 reduction for those who hook before 16 April Opening times are 9.30am to 5.30pm, except for 25 April when doors will be closing at 4.30pm. For further information call



London Orchid Show Unlikely though it may seem for dedicated flower fans, it's worth wending your way through the noisy streets, the petrolperfumed air and the battles of finding your way around London. In addition to the Chelsea Flower Show in May, this year the capital is to host an élite orchid event in March.

Both traditional orchids and hybrid varieties will be on show in the exotic displays, and many of the plants - which originate from locations all over the world - will be available to buy at

The London Orchid Show takes place at the Royal Horticultural Society, New Hall, London SW1 on 20 and 21 March from 10am to 5pm. Entrance: £5 on Saturday, £3 on Sunday, RHS members get in for free. For tickets call 0171-318 4707.

Dundee Spring ShowAs in London, the hustle and bustle of Dundee needs only to be peeled back a little to reveal a second - and rather more flowery - skin. This year sees Dundee launch its ninth flower show, with a focus on spring



May is the time to find a corner of London in bloom

blooms, but visitors will have to wait until April to enjoy the displays. Expect to see a tremendous array of April flowers, including daffodils tulips and various cut "Spring Collections". The Dundee Spring Show

takes place at Old Glamis Road, Dundee on 3 and 4 April. It will be open from 10.30am to 5.30pm on Saturday and 11am to 5pm on Sunday, Admission: £1.50 for adults and £1 for concessions. For further information, call

Chirk Castle

This great, gaunt castle stands austerely on the outskirts of Chirk, a former principal staging-post on the route to Ireland, situated between the industrial town of Wrexham and the Iron Age hill fort of Old Oswestry. Every spring the grounds play host to a proliferation of daffodils, which lead the visitor all the way up to an 18th-century statue of Hercules.

There will be special openings of the grounds to enjoy the spring flowers, on 13 and 14 and 20 and 21 March. Opening

hours will be from noon to 4pm with the last admissions at 3.30pm. Entrance: £1.50 for adults and 75p for children on these dates, or £2.60 and £1.30 respectively afterwards. Chirk Castle is situated outside Wrexham in North Wales. For further details call 01691 777701.

Kingston Lacy Situated near Wimborne

Minster, a civilised coastal town in Dorset that is home to narrow streets. Georgian houses and an imposing Norman church, this grand National Trust property is a springtime mecca for snowdrop-lovers.

Admiring the Lady Walk hlanketed by delicate snowdrops has become something of a tradition for such people, and special weekend openings have been organised for the purpose - but you'll have to hurry. The final snowdrop weekend ends tomorrow so, for final glimpses, pay a visit between 11am and 4pm on 6 or 7 February. Entrance: £2.50 for adults, £1.25 for children, and free for members. For more information

BEATRICE HODGKIN

Go Dutch in Europe's finest kitchen garden

Keukenhof in Holland is the world's largest bulb-flower garden and a paean to the bloom that drives men mad. By Geoffrey Roy

THINK OF tulips and you think of the Netherlands. When the Dutch think of talips (bearing in mind that they have some 15,000 sq km of bulb fields netting about 1,330 million pounds worth of export trade), they think of Keukenhof near Lisse, about 45km south-west of Amsterdam. This year is the 50th anniversary

of the founding of Keukenhof, which literally means "kitchen garden". A group of prominent bulb growers established the site in 1949 to convert ordinary Dutch people to the joys of growing flowers from bulbs in their own gardens. Keukenhof is situated on an estate that once belonged to a 15th-century countess who used to grow herbs and vegetables for her dining table here hence the name - and it is now deemed to be the world's largest bulb-flower garden. With 80 acres of tulips (some 6 million), daffodils, hyacinths, and other flowering bulbs, flowering scrubs, ancient trees and beautiful ponds and fountains, Keukenhof is referred to as the

Spring Garden of Europe. Strolling around the landscaped gardens is an absolute delight, even for those not interested in gardening and horticulture. Flower-beds glimmer with the sheer abundance of colour as each variety of tulip presents its spring-time blush and, nestled amongst the more common

ones, are many of the rarest species. Tulips originated in Asia in a belt that extends eastward from Ankara in Turkey, through Yerevan and Baku to Turkmenistan, along the Silk Route to Bukhara, Samarkand and Tashkent, and on to the Pamir-Alai and Tien Shan Mountains in China's



Spring-time blush of the Dutch national flower central-Asian province of Xinjiang.

There are now about 120 naturally growing species spread throughout the Old World. Ancient trade routes caused the

tulip to spread its flowers westward, but tulips didn't arrive in Europe until bulbs were brought from Constantinople to Antwerp in 1562. Today, there are more than 5,500 different tulips listed in the Classified List and International Register of Tulip Names (published by the Royal General Bulbgrowers Association of the Netherlands).

As part of this year's show at Keukenhof, there will be: 10 changing indoor flower exhibitions or parades; seven themed gardens; a corn mill; and, for children, a special "Bollebozen" or "Whiz-kids" route through the gardens, a maze, animal pasture and play area. There will also be a music garden where you can enjoy smaller bulbflowers and trees to the sound of music.

If you're planning a visit, the 10 temporary flower exhibitions, or so-

called parades, are: amaryllis. freesias and hyacinths from 26 March to 6 April; orchids from 26 March to 7 April; tulips and irises from 8 to 20 April; chrysanthemums from 29 April to 13 May: narcissi (daffodils) from 22 to 28 April: roses from 9 to 15 April; special hulbous plants from 30 April to 10 May; Alstroenneria Bouvardia from 17 to 27 April; lilies from 14 to 24 May; and carnations and summer-flowering plants from 15 to 24 May.

The Keukenhof Gardens nor at Siationsweg, 166a, Lisse, and are open daily from 25 March to 19 May from Sam to 7.30pm. Try to arrive early to beut the tour buses.

Admission is £18 for adults und £9 for four to 12 year-olds. There un: three restaurants on site and cash machines available. Wheelchairs and push-chairs are available free of charge. For further information, call 00 31 252 465 555 nr email. infoia keukenhaf.nl. There is also a website at: www.keukeulusful



The icing on the cake

to preach about heaven.

Control of the second

Demure dinner

Walk - or crawl, by this time - up Telegraph Hill to

firefighters of 1906. The phallic tower resembles a fire-hose nozzle, and local history has it that Lillie

ower features Social Realist murals painted in the

and beauty in one - no wonder Billy Graham hesitates

Pick anywhere in North beach for Italian, or

fantastic Hunan cuisine, while the Italian

estaurants clustered around Columbus and

Broadway are so Italian even the soap in the washrooms smells of basil and olive oil. For a

@ (63 Ellis, 001 415 986 0069) is where crime

writer Dashiell Hammett regularly took lunch. The

"Sam Spade Chops" are touristically priced at £14.

ntown meal with a literary tinge, John's Grill

CALLEY STREET, CONTRACTOR OF STREET, CONTRAC

Chinatown for Chinese food Brandy Ho's @

(Columbus Avenue, 001 415 788 7527) serves

Thirties by WPA painters under the direction of Mexican artist Diego Rivera. Art, sexual provocation

admired the San Francisco firemen and their hoses for

more than their fire-fighting abilities. The inside of the

Colt Tower for the best city views. Lillie Cost built the tower and dedicated It to the earthquake



THE WALLSON START

3 48 hours ... in San Francisco

You need a break - and a shortcut to the soul of a city. Ten years ago The Independent launched 48 hours, the prescription for the perfect weekend break. The idea has been often imitated but never equalled. This week Stuart Price is in San Francisco

Bay furnils so

Mish, hastfate to preach

thickness while I'm

Says the awangelist altant For once, he's

Why go now? Because air fares are at silly prices (barely more than £200 through discount agencies). the weather is better than the UK (and always will be) and because it's stunningly beautiful. Another appealing factor is the price. It's a reassuringly economical city. certainly cheaper now than in Gold Rush dmes, when the easy wealth of the city saw

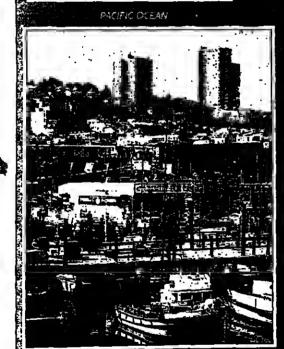
TO THE ROLL OF THE PARTY. Get your bearings Maps of this neat and compact city (which livides conveniently Into a number of different neighbourhoods) are available rywhere in San Francisco. Also pick up a Bay City guide, which is free in the ewspaper bins on most street corners

eggs seiling for up to \$50 a dozen and whiskey for \$30 a quart.

Beam down cab ride from the airport to downtown San Francisco is around £18, a door-to-door hotel shuttle service costs around £6 and a stretch mo will cost anything up to £60,

Check in The tourist hotels are centred downtow around Union Square, scene of the film The Conversation. At upwards of E90 a night, there is the St Francis (335 Powell, 001 415 397 7000), where Sara Jane Moore ttempted to assassinate President Ford in 1975. There are also plenty of middle-bracket totels for £55 - £75, including the Commodore (825 Sutter, 001 407 740 5442) and the Beresford (635 Sutter, 001 15 673 9900). For more economical ccommodation, the Geary @ (610 Geary, 001 415 673 9221) is clean and friendly with. rooms for around £25 a night.

Watch out for... Earthquakes. San Francisco is due for another shake some time in the next 30 years. For smokers there are more immediate problems: the tity has a zero-tolerance smoking ban everywhere, and many hotels no longer provide smoking guest rooms. Some bars do gnore the ban but restaurants uphold it. And, finally, you may want to give Tenderioin a miss. Not in the carnivorous sense but in the urban - this is the name for half a dozen blocks slap in the city centre known for their ninviting shabbiness. Itter-strewn streets. flophouses, and the lively local trade in drugs and prostitution



Lunch on the run San Franciscans spend more per capita eating out than any other city residents in the U5, The fact that the food is generally good quality, even at 99c burger joints like Jack n The Box (400 Geary Street. 001 415 673 0868), probably explains why. For lunch, try one of almost 20 basel types and a fizzing mocha at the Sonoma Valley Bagel Company (Sutter and Grant, 001 415 951 0133).

Take a ride San Francisco is a city of hills, and the best way to get over them is by cable car, so take a £1.20 ride from downtown to Fisherman's Wharf @ This is the only dry in the world with a revenue-ear cable-car system. It's easy to see why, as short of a motorbike, it's probably the most dangerous transport there is: passengers hang by their fingertips off the sides and alighting points are in the niddle of busy four-way junctions.

Alcate at Jeland

A walk in the park For many, Haight Ashbury @ is still a centre for love and peace - the within casy walking distance. The local houses, shops and cales wear this heritage proudly - Victorian-style clapboard houses in streaks of purple, orange, pink and blue, are decorated with tle-dyed curtains and psychedelic artwork – and the area has managed to maintain the village feel it had when the hippies moved in, with anarchist bookshops, vintage clothing emporiums, "record" shops, body art, and chimes. Designer label stores still sit comfortably beside discount depots. Haight Street finishes at Golden Gate Park @ the largest expanse of green in San Francisco.



Golden Gate Bridge with San Francisco in background

The premises are suitably grand for an

Edwardian hotel - but in fact the building.

the Morning Post, a now-defunct national

were located, and it is flanked by massive

hotel through the huge windows into the

bar where high-profile guests like Mick

I'm not saying that the place is modern,

but I couldn't decide if the object to the left of

the reception desk was (a) sculpture or (b) 8

hi-tech lateral radiator or (c) a bench. No

one yelled when I sat on it to survey the

clean lines, clear spaces and elaborate

staircase, so I assume it was the latter.

director, Gordon Campbell Grey.

newspaper. The swimming pool in the

steel supports.

THE FRENCH are the lucky ones. When they disembark from the

Sunday morning: go to church

For those who believe that politics is the new

Hall @ is a must. Reopened this January after

the 1989 earthquake damaged the building,

meaning of resurrection and rebirth. In 1978.

offices. Its gold-leafed dome, which sits a few

Harvey Milk were assassinated here in their

feet higher than the Capitol In Washington DC, was built to be the tallest In the US.

this to many San Franciscans is the true

Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor

Take a hike If you get sick of the seaguils, bird shit and clam chowder of courist-heavy Fisherman's Wharf, Alcatraz prison island 3 sits a mile's uncomfortable ferry journey out from here. Buy an audio tour ticket for "The Rock" from Pier 39 This tour of the cell-block from inmates and correctional officers is Informative, atmospheric and wellresearched. Many of the miserable stories

about prison life here aren't exactly true. While it was certainly maximum security, prisoners apparently had such luxuries as hot water - but this may have been to stop ther becoming too acclimatised to the feel of cold water. From some of the cells, you can see San Francisco bathed in light: "There was never a day when you didn't see what you were missing." says one inmate.

Window shopping Forget window shopping: San Francisco is a place to spend. Union Square is the shopping centre for over-priced apparel, while for the more discerning buyer, Ross (Market and 3rd) sells half-price Calvin Klein underwear, mostly in sizes for midgets or Sumo wrestlers. Market Street is San Francisco's Oxford Street, with purveyors of Levi's for £18 and up, cheap sunglasses, consumer

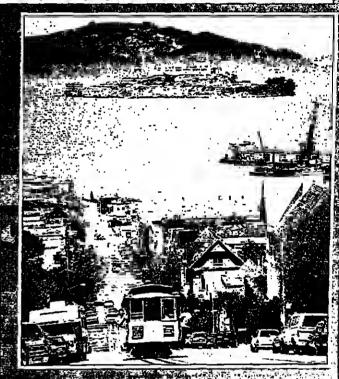
electronics, ghastly T-shirts and fake IDs. Cold cash speaks very loudly here, if you can't find what you're looking for, many mainstream designers have factory outlets in the SOMA district. One of the largest thrift shops around is Thrift Town (Mission at 17th), where Hawaiian shirts go for less than £3, in fact, almost everything here goes for less

Cultural afternoon Take an afternoon to visit the Idlosyncraticooking Museum of Modern Art () (3rd and Mission, 001 415 357 4000). The callery has a collection of more than 18,000 works it uses to put together permanent collection shows, including the current on-going Matisse exhibition, as well as major Abstract Expressionist paintings from Jackson Pollock and Clyfford 5dll, The nuseum is also strong on German

Expressionism, Fauvism and Mexican Coit Tower on Telegraph Hill An aperitif There are two kinds of places to take a quick solfter: North Beach hangouts and "view lounges" where you can slp your drinks and survey the city scenery both at the same dme. Three great high-rise lounges stand out. Ignore the often soulless atmosphere and the prices at the 39th floor of the Marriott () (Fourth and Market, 001 415 896 1600), the Grand Hyatt @ on Union Square (001 415 398 1234), and Top of the Mark @ (California at Mason, 001 415 392 3434) and marvel at simply stunning views. Alternatively, drop in at the old beat poet bars @ at Columbus Avenue and Broadway. Tosca (001 415 986 9651). with its red booths and opera-influenced lukebox, holds out the hope of catching celebs such as Torn Waits, Robin Williams and Francis Ford Coppola. Opposite is Vesuvio (001 415 362 3370) where Jack Kerouac and Dylan Thomas soaked at the bat, while Spec's (12 Adler Alley, 001 415 421 4112) is suitably dingy.



Bracing brunch For those who can stomach t, you can eat breakfast or lunch 24 hours a day around Union Square. Diners such as Lori's (Fifdes influenced, but solid food, 001 415 392 8646) and the Pine Crest Diner at Mason and Geary (a bit greasy, but wellpatronised by locals, 001 415 885 6407) serve pretty much anything at anytime.



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AND CHEST !

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Andrews County Committee

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Santa Cruz de Tenerife Anyone seeking a little winter sunshine in the Canaries this month will have the added diversion of the Santa Cruz de Tenerife Carnival", which



attracts hundreds of troupes of musicians and dancers to entertain locals and tourists alike. Following the election of the Carnival Queen on 10 February, there will be parades. dancing, live bands - and, on 17 February, something called "the burial of the sardine" ... Various locations, Santa de Cruz de Tenerife, Spain (00 34 922 24 0500), to 21 February, free

San Francisco The 85 paintings, drawings, photographs and sculptures brought together in the exhibition "Mirror Images: Women, Surrealism and Self-Representation" are the work of women associated with or influenced by the surrealist movement. The pieces, dating from 1928 to 1996, are by such artists as Louise Bourgeois, Frida Kahlo, Cindy Sherman and Meret 'ppenham, and reflect their authors' rejection of the passive role of object of the

(male) gaze which has been propagated traditionally throughout art history. The selfrepresentation here is a celebration of the reappropriation and recreation of the depiction of the feminine self. Its spirit resonates through contemporary art today. Museum of Modern Art, 151 Third Street, San Francisco, California, USA (00 1 415 357 10001 to 20 April, \$4-\$8

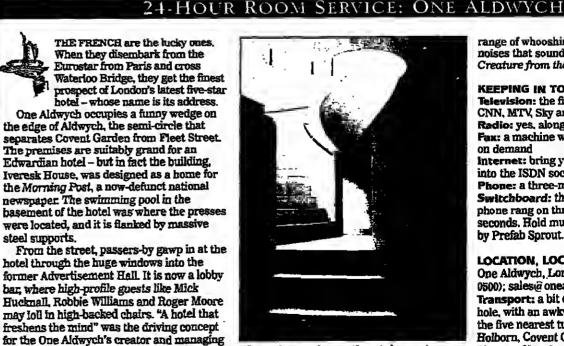
Since its foundation in 1978 as

Sydney

part of a commemoration of the Stonewall Riots in New York, Mardi Gras" has grown to become one of the largest gay and lesbian arts festivals in the cultural and political events to keep fun at a premium. To qualify for a ticket to the member of the Mardi Gras, but anyone can hit the streets on the outrageous costumes of the night-time Parade. Various locations, Suaneu. Australia (00 61 2 9557 4332 or

SHARON GETHINGS

ARE YOU LYING COMPORTABLY? Beds: minimum of 6ft wide, with four plump pillows and an eight-inch mattress designed by Hypnos: "The first thing that we sell is a good night's sleep," says Campbell Grey. Non-smoking rooms are available. The best among the 105 rooms is a two-bedroom



The only way is up: the stairway to One Aldwych's Axis restaurant and bar

deluxe suite (with its own fitness centre). while the standard rooms on the lower floors on the northern side are the least appealing. Freebles: high-class toiletries, plus fruit and flowers that are refreshed every day. The ashtrays are classy but not to be taken away. remperature, a fully health, control system "You must be able to freeze or melt". Bathroom: fitted with an individual television. A piping-hot bath runs in just three minutes. Those of a nervous disposition should be warned that the hi tech drainage system makes an extraordinary

range of whooshing and clunking hydraulic noises that sounds like the soundtrack from Creature from the Black Lagoon.

KEEPING IN TOUCH Television: the five terrestrial channels plus CNN, MTV, Sky and others Radio: yes, along with a classy CD player Fax: a machine will be brought to your room on demand

internet: bring your own laptop, and plug it into the ISDN socket if required Phone: a three-minute local call costs Top Switchboard: the average time that the phone rang on three occasions was 10 seconds. Hold music - 'Steve McQueen' CD by Prefab Sprout.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION One Aldwych, London WC2B 4BZ (0171-300 0500); sales@ onealdwych.co.uk Transport: a bit of an Underground blackhole, with an awkward 10-minute hike from the five nearest tube stations: Charing Cross. Holborn, Covent Garden, Temple or Waterloo Time to Heathrow: 35 minutes if you get a good cab run to Paddington for the Heathrow

Time to Waterloo International: three minutes by cab or bus

THE BOTTOM LINE A double room, including VAT and service, is £310.80; English breakfast in bed is an additional £10.50 each, with 12.5 per cent

optional service charge. To cut the cost by £130, stay on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday night before 1 April, so you qualify for the "Brief Affair" rate of £220 including breaklast.

SIMON CALDER



Christie's first skiing poster sale last February proved so successful - with most of the early-20th-century posters attaining prices far higher than their estimates - that the second sale (25 February) is making the headlines. Whether this reflects a rampant nostalgia for stylish holiday resorts or a growing appreciation of classic graphic design (see plcture) is anyone's guess, but many buyers may well be paying a visit to Cooper-Hewitt's "Graphic Design in the Mechanical Age", a selection of more than 200 posters. paintings, drawings, collages and ephemera from the 1920s and 1930s. Works by Jan Tschichold, Alexander Rodchenko and the Stenberg brothers, among others, will be on view, and preliminary designs will be on show alongside finished pieces. Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum, 2 East 91st Street, New York, New York, USA (00 1 212 849 8400)

9 Fcorum y-23 May, 53-55

the "Sydney Gay and Lesbian world, with over 80 community, extravagant last-night party, you need to become an international Saturday 27 February to enjoy http://www.mardigras.com.au/ for membership and ticket details) to 27 February. Party

tickets cost AU\$70

CALL:

1897554555 to respond to any ad. Calls cost the normal BT premium rate of the paramium at all times



TEL: 0171 293 2222

SHY BUT FEISTY Lively, positive, sophisticated, successful, professional Asian Hindu lemale, 33, interested in the arts, based in Northants, seeks fike-minded, unattache sincere, N/S male, 33-38, for that special relationship.

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mic/design professional p ferred. London. 225061 Well-travelled, easygoing and optimistic ternale, 43, recently back in London, GSOH, seeks professional, sociable male, up to 55, with positive outlook, N/S, to share varied activities.

a cultural man, 35-45, acad

HELP
I need friend to help me create
my vision for the future and to
experience the millermium.
Attractive, intelligent female,
seeking a male inend, aged
48-80, any nationality. London, 125021 LOVE AND THE CITY

Attractive, intelligent
Continental ledy, 30, petita,
blue eyes, long hair, wall educated, affectionate, considerate, seeks white, Acian or
Onental, sincere gentleman,
for long-term relationship and
lasting love, London, 275007

A NTELLIGENT
Attractive female, 42, Indeper
dent. enjoys country pursuits,
good times, seeking male,
N/S, age not important.
Hampshire based, 275008

& INDEPENDENT
Enudite woman, mid-40s, 5'9',
medium-built, own successful
business, enjoys badminton,
jogging, countryside, theatre,
ravel, sprituality, tarot, good
conversation, red wine, seeks
intelligent, professioned, noncharvinestic, tall, well-built
life, 33-45, Mindow allettiness
Yorks, 255010 Yorks. 225010

Call Now! 0897 554 555

LOVE AND RESPECT LOVE AND RESPECT Very attractive lady, 28, 57", dark brown/brown, one daughter, seeks handsome, loving, loyal male, up to 39, to share happy times. Has varied interests, Leotis area only, 72'5027.

FEISTY FIFTY BUXOM BELLE

talf, N/S, sensitive man, with ideals, Milton Keynes. 274958
FRINSHING TOUCH
If all you need in your life is a good-looking, honest, fustworthy male, 29, 510°, home/tive, into last cars, tashlon and holidays, call female, 18-35, for a special relationship. Yorkshire/anywhers. 275029

Also writer, ironic and gor-years, il., with it, when, rech-less and shrewd, likes indigo,

A COMPLETE MAN
Summing black professional
termale, 30s, sporty, financially
independent, anjoys theatre,
travel, dinling, dancing, and
Latin American music, seeks
focused, considerate, financially secure, professional gentleman, GSOH, mid-30e, 50s, for
relationship, 12/4921
COCONEY REBEL.

COCKNEY REBEL
SEEKS MR SOFT
Shy lady, 40ish, seeks man to
bring a little sparride, likes wafting, theatre, dining & movies.
All replies answered. 174917
ATTRACTIVE
CANCERIAN
Female, 43, blonderhazel, 577,
likes wirang, dining, socialising,
holidays, seeks gent, 35-55,
honest and eincere, for triendship, possible relationship,
174919

MAN WANTED
Silm, attractive, happy woman,
mid-46s, fit blonde, South
Cumbra, seeks striller, dark
man, under 50. 274847
AFFECTIONATE
GIANT WITH INTEGRITY
Desired by attractive, warmhearted, free apirt, no fith, single woman, young 40, blonde,
572, you are 28-38, 672+,
well-butt, Scottish/irish/
Australian, circulate, arty, outdoor type, for rewarding friend-

Any Queries?

If you should have any questions ebout any aspects of our Voice Personats' service, please call FREE on 0600 216 351 HAPPY-GO-LUCKY Professional woman, seeking similar, intelligent, adventur-ous, intriguing man, 40-55, N/S, with VGSOH. West Miclands area, 224906

HETHERE! Friendly, outgoing, indepen-dent, petite, professional lady, loves travel, clubbing, good

food and societising, seeks easygoing, kind, honest men, for fun and triendship. 12:4902 INTELLIGENT WOMAN

Lady, 30, seeks attractive, pro-fessional male, with GSOH, to discover if there's more to life

NAU I ICAL? Attractive, aubum-haired lady, early 40s, seeks occasional weekends sailing, off the South Coast, with an Intelligent man, in 1999, 174891 in 1999, 134891

bubbly, positive female, petite but assertive, who loves life, meeting people, parties, dancing, has lots of friends but seeks close relationship with a positive, logether, fairly successful male. 12:4919 STREETMATE
Weekend in New York, half
marathon, holiday in lostand.
Can you fit these into your

JUST HAD
40th BIRTHDAY
Told life begins there! Fun,
crazy female, two children,
hares housework, loves parlying, long conversation, seaside
and country walks, seeking an
attractive, humorous, arry
musical pan, for anul mate. musical man, for soul mate. Cambridgeshire. 17:4944

FREE SPIRIT Professional lady, in mid-40s, divorced, own home etc., empsy stravel, music, theatre, dirung out, the arts, seeks gust, similar interests, for intendship, maybe more. 1274835

Don't Forget! Place your own Voice Personals* ad FREE on

0800 216 351

Attractive, redneed, 36, green eyes, medium build, divorced, into arimal rights, seaside, cardles, jossidists, honest and fun, seeks attractive, happy, sensitive, animal loving male, 35-45. 274839

MAKE OUR
VALENTINE'S SPECIAL
Two gorgeous, single men, sought for himd double date on 14th of February, with two figually gorgeous, young, free women. 274820

CHARMING AND STYLISH
Lively, positive, suphisticated, successful, professional, Asian, Hindu female, 33, Interested in the arts based in Northumpton, seeks (Re-minded, unattacted, sincere, N/S, male, 33-38, for that special retailorship. 274785

SOUTH SOMERSET

Attractive lady, slim, intelligent,

SOUTH SOMERSET
Attractive lady, slim, intelligent,
young 60s, enjoys olassical
music, the arts, environment,
reading, gardening, country
walks, beachcombing, soeks
good-looking, educated genteman, 50-85, with walking boots
and sense of direction. 174821 WHO LOVES ME ...the way I am? Crazy, unconventional sensitive woman, 5'9", 38, many interests, travel, photography, seeks good/bad sides of life. 274776

Secs of Me. 2747/6
MBDLANDS
Attractive female, 5'5', slim
build, dark half, likes walking,
ske.ling, flying, gliding, more,
seeks tall, handsome (nopeluly) reats, 40+, for memoritip,
possibly more, 254761
MAD MARCH HARE
Female 38 Innes countryside. Fernale, 38, loves countryside, Africa, cinema, laughter, paste Africa, cinema, laughter, paste fun. seeks for 1999, like-mind-

-club

Club Rendezvous is the exciting way to find a partner or friend sing the telephonel Whether you're a member or a guest you can

use the many feetures designed to help you meet someone new!

- Vist the Manuface leaving and most insecting, he people of different age

AQUARIAN Female, 38, 518", dark aubum/brown, soeks tall, N/S, witty, intelligent chap, GSOH, 40-50, must love countryside, anmals, ancient sights, SW area. 12/4/52 VARM/WITTY IN LONDON

Tail, attractive, bionde female, early 40s, seeks down-to-earth man, to share films, meals out/in, wine, chat and whatever else may happen. 254773 ROCK CLAMBER Lady, sarly 40s, seeks male rock-climbing partner. Surrey based. 274774

ROMANTIC MAN
Male, 21, 617, N/S, brown/
blue, varied intervers, pube,
clubs, more, outgoing, seeks
similar terratie, 20-30, for nights
intout. South Wales, 27:5025
HAPPY GUY
Asien male, 27, GSOH, slim,
good-tooking, PriD student,
illess movies, books, intellectual, seeks terratie, 25+, warm
and atmative, for fan and troducts. Cambridge area. 27:5070
ARAS GUY
Young, handsome black gen-Young, handsome black gen-teman, 31, 577, very good-looking, seeks female, 25-30s, to share ide's pleasures and

February 14th Valentine's Day

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ite, love and laughter. 274818

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READY TO GO!
Male, late 20s, 52°, dark
brownighteny blue, enjoys
most things in tide, GSOM,
seeks tentale, for frendship,
beckpecking abroad and who
knows? 22*4920
TURN OVER...
A new leaf. 2 new year. Goodlooking male, 30, loves ciriema, theatm, iterature, exit a liftie shy, seeks female, 22-35, to
share file's adventures.
Lundon 12*5042

SPICE MAN SPICE MAN Asian male, 38, seeks female, 25-35, for friendship, rights leaved cutibles and possibly

READY TO GO! Male, 42, never marmed, young-tooking, charming, intel-ligent, educated, seeks Musika

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MALE, 40s SEEKS SOUL, MATE Hard-working male, 44, SW London-based, seeks cool,

London-based, seeks cool, lad-back, younger, self-opin-ionated female, to help change the planer, medigent conversa-tion, trendship & more. 174848 GOOD-LOCKING & GENUINE, Make, mid-40s, 58°, based in Brighton, sim bindi, NYS, likes eating in out, travel, art, seeks female, any nanonality, 36-46, for compenionship, possibly loss more. Brighton, 274846 [arthred] 107. Mature student, early 30s, 54°.

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origin, loves keeping fit, travel reading, seeks female, 25-35.

Retract, professional, easygo-ing, kind, gentie male, 68, 5'B', GSCH, smoker, enjoys every-thing in life, seeks mature female, any nationality, who's kind, gentie and understand-ing, for friendship initially, ***SAAN

THAVELLING MAN Male, 50s, N/S, retred, own house/carCaravan, much to nifer the right lady, enjoys co-avancing in UK/Europe, seeks slim/medium lady, no fies preferred, to share interests, plus companionship home/away. 125038

TRAVELLING MAN

properly, enjoys beach, books and the arts, home food and wine, seeks home-lowing, carrene, seeks nome-twing, caring woman 10 1229
PLENTY TO OFFER
Male, young 50, loves good
lood, music aris, onema,
seeks lady for a forever kind
of reference for a forever kind

17457
ARE YOU OUT THERE?
Male, 42. seeks ternels, 30-32, for fun, friendship, maybe more 124899
SOMEONE SPECIAL

ENTALLJAPANESE Tell, successful, well-travelled Englishman, 40, N.S, SW

Easygoing, caring pent, 41, 5'8", with GSOH, N.S, medi

COMPANIONSHIP AND...
White, professional male, 48, with SOH, interests include photography, hal-walking, issuing to mainly classical music, reading, concern-going, eseiding an attractive, carring lack; 35-50, for triandiship.
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37, lover cutdoors, sport, skitrg, cycling, saeks schie
wilmen, who also shares a
love of the theatre, good loos,
teent sert conversation.
SertesSecturary. PROBENDINI TO SCOTT SAME TO SCOTT SAME TO SAME Fleat and conversation.

Series Seath/europend. 274724

SMSPLY THE BEST

Male, 22, 6°, tall, alm.
darkblue, attractive, enjoys
tavel, music, esting infout,
rights out, photography and
aports, seeks attractive, but
havele, entropiers protective, but
havele, entropiers protective.

COMPASSIONATE MANY Young-looking, relined, profes-sional, undergraduate English male, 40s. 55°; siem, masodis-and ig, NS, romantid, caring, with GSOH, enjoys most things in lite, seeks skinler famale, for triandially initially. TT453?

Male, 21, lines music, looibell and terms, pubs, clubs, seeks female, 24-26, for friendship, possible relationship, 12-1922 possible relabonship. 12/42/2 GOLDEN BROWN Mellow, very attractive Aseo guy, 32, 57°, practicate, impending professional, enjoys leap. It, daning, dancing, acreeks open-minded, viitelinge ermale, 25-35, for fun times.

Eastern lady, N.S. for good times, iriendano and maybe more. 10:4910

Any Queries? If you should have any question CELL FREE ON 0800 215 351

5°B", with GSOH, N.S. medium build, dark-brown, enrights the arts, wellung, cooking, reading etc., seeks sincere, sensitive lady, 20-35, for Irlandship, pos-sible long-term relationship. 234914 COMPANIONSHIP AND.... White, professional male, 48.

STATED NORTHERN SOUL.
Seeks symbiosis, with smart, pottle, sperky, women, Me?
Versatile, stim, GSCH, solvent, no lies, 49. Words, images, water, inbracy, etc. Surrey, 274492

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A DATE AT THE TATE To share a pession for Bonnerd! Male, 46, 672°, and fit for more, cycling, selling, selsa, and travelling more through perversity, than adversity. Essex ares, 274788

Chat Lines

Chat

USA

TYPICAL CANCERIAN
Tall, young 55, semi bald,
dwored, sim, R. sporty, pracsoal, sc-professional, many
interests, N/S, seeks paths,
gende-catacid, advantamous female, with dark hair, to share the with, East Anglia/London

AND HOME STATE OF STATE OF

BLOND & PAT
Hi there! Attractive route, 36, lists working cut, seaks former, 15-40, for Arn and evolutions. London. 274780
A GULTURIAL CONNECTION Lively, an-loving, philosophically-minded individual, seeks seen/Letin lady, with simi emess/outlook, a GSOH

SEEDONG
SOMEONE SPECIAL
Probastorial Crientel Innie, 30, paruline, attractive, seeks kirzt, friendly, Cdertelfenthe fermie, 21-30, for bisnichelp, possible relebonetts, Liens eeurg ou, firms, music, payed, 274785
CREATIVE MAN
Male, 33, 54*, blond, good-lookens, skutterter/recturer.

Sim build, 48, 57", into the-

arre, classical masic, eaping out, country houses and antique collecting on a modest scale, seeks amilar, 35+, for monogamous, one-to-one rela-tionship, 725028

Professional male, own home, very caring and honest, seeks sovieting and honest, seeks to share the with, 254867

ing, caring, friendly, praces, -517°, quite good-looking,

alternative/

LIFESTYLE

iemale, in similar professionings, for developing retaionship. 274915.

ALONE IN PENESRO(ESHIRRE Tail, silm fit, working women, grown up lade, N/S, into advertures, walking and salling, music, classical/szz, arts and books, seeks like-minded man, to share and enjoy the tail. 274238.

DYNAMIC PROFESSIONAL SEEKS 1-2-1 RELATIONSHIP Good-looking, confident tionship. 154835 HAPPY AND CONTENTED Marketing manager, seeks 30s lady, to complete the picture. 1

ARCHTECT
Retred, active male, 50s, 5'7', alim build, solvent, N/S, cxitured, into visual arts, music, travel, seeks alimmah ferrale soul mats. Gambridge. 274842 LOOKING FOR YOU. GSCH, enjoys walking, the airs, travel, good food/wine, gardening, seeks same, for hendship, possibly 1-2-1. Can travel/accommodate, 17:4967 LOCKING FOR YOU
Retired, professional, easygoing, land, gentie male, 68, 58°,
GSCH, smoker, enjoys everything in life, seeks mature
female, any nationality, who's
kind, gentile and understanding, for intendation whitely,
274733
WORTH A GAMBULE?

5710*, mischlevoux, silutnists, hundsome, scane, carang, son-vent, retired professional, fac-tie, NG, GSOH, bee, seeks, youngen, amalien, serephish-intelligent benete, is a you? Bristol/Gloues. TZ-4800 ROMEO SEEKS JULIEY Single male, 20, booking for demast in distress, for friend-shp, possible relationship. TZ-4837

TAKE A CHANCE

iemaie, in simil profession/age.

WORTH A GAMBLE? onal, fit male, 47. active, into music, arts and mountains, seeks adventurous female, for the risks. West mid-

ARE YOU LOOKING... ...for someone special too? Single white guy, 40, 5'11", SE London, seeks silm/medium-built female. 12'4312

SPORTY MAN

SPORTY MAN

Extroveried, tactile, tail, simmish male, 40s, NS, seeks
younger, temkine impdel/soul
bebs. London/home counties,

ATTRACTIVE AND FRIENDLY Male, 40s, GSOH, seeks tree ligent, affectionate, attractive female soul mate, 30-50. London/Essex/East Anglia.

medium build, brown har/eyes, v 230 suppl spear, lifting occasional pub/ckib, driving, seeks temale, sknilar situation/

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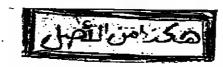












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I seem to have caused offence to a large group of people who, until recently, bad very little ability to fight back. But they have recently equipped themselves with powerful and vocal lobby groups. As a result, I have already lost my job, but they seem still to be after my blood. Can you suggest the best way to put things right?

Glenn, Lancaster Gate

There's very little you can do to put it right, but a grovelling apology might be a good place to start. Try something like: "I am a Christian, and believe in reincarnation. The fact that I am unable to open my mouth without putting my foot in it is obviously intended by some higher power. I must have been a sententious prat in a previous life. It is karma."

Dear Serena, I am 37, unmarried and two months pregnant. The father is currently

being good about it, though I'm not sure if we're going to stay together as our history isn't entirely smooth and we were on the verge of calling it a day when this happened. I am going to go ahead with having the baby regardless, as I am afraid that time is getting tight and this might be my last chance to bave a child, at least by someone for whom I have feelings. I am certainly able to cope financially, but there is one problem. How do I tell my overprotective Catholic parents? I can't believe that I have this problem at my age, but they still see me as an irresponsible adolescent despite the fact that I

Of course they still think of you as an irresponsible adolescent: they are your parents. However you break this news to them, they will continue to think that you are an irresponsible adolescent. They will probably think (or at least

have been running a multinational

Millie. Hertford

company for the last six years.

persuade themselves that they think) that this child is the result of your first naive foray into sexual relations, and that you have been "caught" like so many teenagers before you. At least you have two strikes in your favour: as Catholics, they are hardly going to urge abortion and, because of your age, they have probably been nursing fears for some time now that you will never furnish them with grandchildren. You have about a month's grace to work out a plan, because it's wisest to keep stumm

from all but your best

nothing ghastly has

friend until you're sure

gone wrong. After that,

be trouble (and you may be dubious about

that singular) with Aquarians is that they

wrapped in clouts, in the heavily guarded

preach freedom but live as prisoners,

double-perimeter fence, where they're

hovel of their souls. The tops of the

dressed with tiger wire, is decorated with the bodies of those who tried to penetrate the Aquarian secret.

It was a fool's errand; even Aquarians don't know what

But there are pone the less a number of positive

qualities, and bere they are. Aquarians are assiduous

name-droppers (though the name they drop most is

(they like you better the more you bleed). Aquarians

their own), and very attentive foul-weather friends

also have a very significant talent for adultery, and

continually take the gold medal for infidelity - to

people, ideas and political parties (Lana Turner,

Harold Macmillan). Aquarians have no beliefs but

the secret is, and nor would you want to if you

were they.

you have a duty to tell

the old folk as soon as possible, as springing the news and the baby on them in sbort succession would probably push them into a state of total acopia. If you really can't bear to tell them face to face, make the ' most of your position at work. Wait until you have to go to Los Angeles, then call from your

botel room where they can't track you down and say "Mum, dad, I'm in Los Angeles and I'm going to have a baby in October. I'll be back in two weeks and we can discuss it then." Then slam the phone down so you won't be too guilt-ridden by the

> Dear Serena. How do you like your coffee?

sound of their screams.

Kenneth, Type and Wear Smooth, strong and rich,

many opinions, and this is a good thing. When they do

confuse ideas with ideals, and sounds with sense. They

believe themselves to be talented, and sometimes they are, but still they are unable to explain the presence in

have beliefs (like Mary D, thousands will die. They

their sign of Michael Bentine, and Larry Adler, and

Wisdom and Ian Gow and Jane Seymour and Libby

There is something about Aquarians which makes

Purves and Tony Blackburn and James Callaghan.

Denis Norden, and George Mikes and Norman

you want to try and kill them (Ronald Reagan,

Abraham Lincoln, Kit Marlowe, Louis XVD, and

something else about them, behind the tiger wire,

which makes them want to kill themselves (Brendan

Behan, James Dean, Sir Thomas More, Eva Braun).

It's true they are a well-meaning sign, they just don't have the restraint, the caution, the discipline, or the

with just a hint of decadence. Forget the feel of velvet and silk, as velvet has always tended to make me gag. And never serve it instant from a jar, or your party full of advertising trendies will look very quizzical indeed.

Dear Serena. My friend Belinda bas been going on

about ber wonderful new man Marcus for months, and we were all dying to meet him. Imagine my borror when we bumped into each other in the street one day and it turned out that Marcus was someone I had a disastrous one-night stand with 10 years ago and was relieved to have never heard from again. He showed no signs of recognising me. so maybe the secret is safe. Or should I tell ber? What do you think? Mandy, Exeter

Under no circumstances, unless be did something like steal your credit cards or torture your cat, Belinda will not appreciate knowing that you know what

ber dream lover is like in bed, and be will no doubt have been as keen to for get the whole incident as you were. And don't spend too much time feeling smug about our little secret: remember, if the sex was disastrous, it's just as likely to have been you as bim that got it wrong.

Dear Serena, Is it reasonable to ask a boyfrieud/ husband to buy tampons:

Richard, Acton

Only if he's passing one of the larger branches of a major chain chemist. Any man sent to the corner shop for Women's Things has a right to refuse. or at least to demand that she buy a pack of condoms the next time she patronises the same shop.

Knotty problems with the world today? Write to Dear Serenn. The Independent, 18th Floor, 1 Conodo Squore, London E14 5DL, where they will be treated with customary sympathy



ARIES

THE WEATHER'S been variable, at best. Now you feel you are moving into safe haven, you dirty British coaster. The good news is you'll be able to shift some pig-lead and settle some bills. There will be flashes of intuition, like a glimmering from the depths, but you may be advised to store this rather than act on it. You may feel less effective, but restraint can have more power than expression. Inner beauty may be useful after all.



TAURUS YOU WILL know the song "Don't Worry, Be

Happy". Do not give it bead room. You have a talent for worry and the more you worry the more money you'll make, the nicer you'll be to your friends, the more your spouse will like you. Venus is square with Saturn and likes the discipline (we needn't spin out the implications). Your loyalty, so rare these days, may be misconstrued as a fear of moving into the unknown. Beware vulgar minds. AS MERCURY goes into Pisces, the most



GEMINI

peculiar sign of the Zodiac, you may find your battiness gets an unwelcome burst of energy. Which head will you wear today? The warm one? Or the gay one? Or the cold, analytical one? No, the one that goes with your shoes, of course! Sensitivity to the mental processes around you give you a form of telepathy. Now you'll find out what people really think of you (uh ob). Don't protect yourself too much. YOUR EMOTIONAL meteorology looks interesting. There are sunny opportunities in



CANCER

the ridge of high pressure that's coming your way but only if you take your clothes off. Your anxieties about the way you look underneath are the worst form of egotism. There is one who will see your loveliness. An added inducement: normally you pay for this pleasure with depression, but this time you get away with it (Lord knows you deserve it). IF YOU'VE been feeling the need for a bittle spice in your life, here comes the tabasco. You



are inspired with originality, power and intelligence. It's the recipe for chaos, of course, and it may be difficult for you to manage the consequences of genius (you are more conventional than you like to admit). This foray into the higher unknown will be exhausted by the end of the week. Intelligence will be useful (it's a two-edged sword in your

NO, YOU aren't sick, but vivid images may present themselves during the day. If you go



VIRGO

very still and trust in silence, you will find you can read the minds of those around you (this isn't something Virgos actually want to do). As your disciplines dissolve, people will see you relaxed, assume it's the real you and will tell you their secrets (the fools). Sex is strangely enjoyable (especially for someone who doesn't like strange sex). Relax. Don't do it. IF YOU have a fault (many Librans may resist this opening) it's not one that you can be



manners to express it.

reproached with this week. Your tendency to drop things before they're finished, a tendency to overlook details - these characteristics are obliterated by your ruling planet's square aspect with Saturn. Now you find yourself obeying a new sense of structure, of order and this makes you feel above-average sexy tas does the opposite, and everything in between). THOSE DESIRES you have that have no name (there are some things even you flinch from) - now is the time to approach



SCORPIO

them. Pluto, the planet of your unsavoury depths, is enjoying a lubricating aspect with Mercury, and this eases entry into your secrets. If it's hard to get in, it's harder getting out. You must tame what is wild, or at least prepare a secure area where these desires can be domesticated (when the divorce is over).

WHY WON'T things go as well as you deserve? And what have you done to deserve this



SAGITTARIUS

continuing blockage? First your energy is down, you're working on three of your six cylinders, and worse, when you try and explain, it comes out all wrong. Tact has never been your thing, but just now you can't even express the truth and beauty you pride yourself on. You'll end up feeling guilty about the mess - either keep quiet or keep moving. THIS IS what you've been waiting for, this aspect with Venus - even though it's seen as



CAPRICORN negative, any connection with Venus exalts

you. Where you are thought desiccated you are radiant, where you've been slandered as materialistic you are giving off a spiritual plasma. Less substantial signs fall into orbit and make you the centre of their motion; they must maintain their velocity or crash. Thus your creativity can crush those you love. IT'S QUIET Too quiet. You have the appetite for action but a strange vagueness keeps you



AQUARIUS

quiet. There is a membrane between you and the world, you are a prisoner of this prophylactic. The data you need will not be available from others, you must turn inwards, only solitary practices will reveal what you truly want (don't get caught, solitude is an eccentricity to be feared). Be careful of that which is overtaking you from the rear. A POOR aspect with Venus casts your material life in a poor light. Afflicted Pisceans twbo are usually compensated for astrological



PISCES

deformity by money) will have to choose between health and wealth. Dislike of the beneficiaries named in your will may spur you to look after yourself. There will be difficulties with girls (the ones you like are difficult) but not with boys. Male Pisceans are notorious for swimming both ways teven the ones that look



CLASSIC CARTOONS

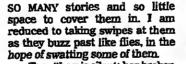
MARTIN PLIMMER ON LESLIE STARKE



"Here I am, Dominic!"

LESUIE STARKE was a big sixfooter with a concentrated vision of the world. His cartoons were near, selfcontained jewels, glowing with charm, precisely engineered to express life's small yet exquisite incidentals. Starke started cartooning at the age of 36, though he had supplied caricatures to his local paper, the Fife Herald, as a youth. During the war, though serving in the RAF, his drawing career took off thanks to Ministry of Food advertisement

commissions, including onethought to be the world's largest - erected across County Hall. Few jokers have ever worked on that scale, not even Ken Livingstone. Starke died in 1974. When asked in 1961 by a Punch reader, to describe himself, he seemed abashed at the attention, replying in tiny handwriting that be smoked. drank endless cups of coffee and lived beside the main railway line out of Eustoo Station: "I bope the foregoing is the kind of thing you want."



pTom (the p is silent) has broken his wrist at school during rugby Rugby, I thought on hearing this, is a dangerous game with few of the mitigations of soccer. But there was an extra little twist, of the sort that makes fact so much more telling than fiction: he hadn't broken his wrist while playing, but on the way to the game. He'd tripped over his own shoelace.

It means I finally stand a chance of beating him at Goldeneye on the Nintendo64, in which we race up and down corridors trying to blow each other's virtual brains out in virtual proxy. My lifelong atopographia balances his reduced dexterity and makes it a far better game. Yes, I approve of computer games; they can be mentally stimulating as part of a caloriecontrolled brain diet. Some of the skills may even be transferable.

Usually, however, fact beats fiction hands down. Take my overclose encounter with the "work of art" consisting of 65 sets of traffic lights on a roundabout on the Isle of Dogs in east London. The lack of road signs led to my cheap crack about there being no doubt, somewhere, an artwork consisting of a heap of signs.

Reality beat me to it. Pierre Vivant, who perpetrated the traffic lights and who works in Paris and Oxford, has already made a pyramid out of road signs in Cardiff, which has commended itself - for



different reasons - to the city fathers, to down-and-outs and skateboarders alike. In the case of the traffic lights, philistines can still fight back. According to the Arts & Leisure department of Tower Hamlets, whose responsibility they are, hero. the work is on probation for six months from the date of turning on (21 December 1998) in case it causes accidents.

This is the artistic imperative: if a thing is thinkable, do it and call it art. Has a sheep been sawn in half? No? Do it! The critics will undoubtedly fall over each other to discover meaning in it.

This degrading of the language of art results in a peak of the public's appreciation of art in Monet, who now features on my Tesco's "bag for life". I feel the phrase Monet Bags might be more apt. Will we buying little

replicas of half-sheep in the new millennium? What will they put on carrier bags?

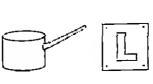
Let's bope it's both apt and representational. This rebus, sent in to Puzzle Panel by Mike Harrington of Lowestoft, certainly is. The BBC hasn't trailed or advertised he new series. Maybe that's because it doesn't need to.

Points to ponder Deleting G from RUGBY gives RUBY. Delete the middle letter of i) a sport to give something that happens to bacon ii) a sportsman to give a comic

Last week's solution

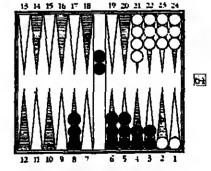
1) Home & Dome must be at P & N or vice versa. 2) 65 sets of lights have a total of 8 X 8 X 8 * (keep going until you've written 8 a total of 65 times over) independent states.

Comments and contributions to independent@puzzlemaster.co.uk Puzzle Panel, 1:30pm Fridays, R4



BACKGAMMON

CHRIS BRAY



THE FIRST week of February and already an entrant for this year's "Hard Luck" award. The Ancient Woodpusher (AW) was playing a few friendly games against the Doyen (TD) when this position arose.

White is on roll. Should he double? The answer is a resounding no. White is not even the favourite in this position. If be doubles black should beaver (turn the cube to 4 and keep it on his side of the board). Even if white escapes one of his back men from black's bome board and black stays on the bar be still won't have a double. However, TD did double and AW took, but didn't beaver.

TD's next two rolls were 65 played 24/18, 23/18 and 66 played 18/6(2). AW continued to

stay on the bar ad infinitum. Eventually be just managed to save the backgammon! AW of course had seen it all before after all, not for nothing is part of his soubriquet "Ancient" and he proceeded quietly on with the next game. Not for him the low-flying dice cup or the manic gesticulations of the Tempestuous Turk. He phlegmatically accepted what the fates had dealt him, and just got on with it.

The lesson to be learnt from this sorry tale is that you must remember that the only important game is the next one. By all means learn from the game that has just been completed, but don't dwell on it unnecessarily.

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SUNDAY TELEVISION & RADIO

BBC1

7:15 Match of the Day (3816533), 8.30 Breakfast with Frost (40303), 9.30 Heaven and Earth (79378). 10.30 Porridge (22587). 11.00 Match of Their Day (2736), 11.30 CountryFile (3465). 12.00 On the Record (50858), 1.00 EastEnders (8659755).

2.25 Hill In Search of the Castaways (Robert Stevenson 1962 US), Jules Verne tale starring Maurice Chevalier (T) (855910).

4.00 Are You Being Served? (755). 4.30 Masterchef 1999 (939), 5.00 News; Weather (8812007). 5.20 Local News and Weather (5593674). 5.25 Songs of Praise (1093571).

6.00 Last of the Summer Wine. Something horrible stirs in the woods (5) (T) (804).

6.30 Antiques Roadshow. From Camoustie, Angus. Finds include first editions of The Beano and The Dendy (S) (585552).

7.15 Five Go Mad in the Kitchen (S) (T) (955668).

7.20 Holiday Guide to... America. New York, Florida and the Pacific Coast Highway (S) (T) (191262).

8.00 The Scarlet Pimpernel. 3/3. The last of this highly disappointing adaptation of the Baronese Orczy classic. The Dauphin is being held prisoner by the Republicans, When he is captured by a masked intruder, Robespierre orders Chauvelin to find the boy before news of the disappearance gets out (S) (21561).

9.30 The Lakes. More from this steemy Lakeland saga (S) (T) (848281).

10.10 News; Weather (T) (403649).

10.25 Unfinished Business. Sitcom about a divorced couple (S) (517281).

10.55 Pm Alan Partridge, Sourminducing comedy with Steve Coogan (R) (S) (T) (205736).

11.25 The Big End (S) (T) (622620).

11.55 Barbarians at the Gate (Glenn Jordan 1993 US), Satire with James Garner (S) (700533).

L35 The Sky at Night (2017392). To 2am.

BBC2

8.15 French Experience [7214303]. 8.30 Little Mousa on the Prairie (9455842). 8.50 Alvin and the Chipmunks (9539858). 9.15 Wayne Manifesto (S) (4989736). 9.40 Wild House (9572620), 10.05 No Sweat (9084991). 10.30 Grange Hill (20129). 11.00 Kids and Cops (6735587). 11.25 Grance HE (6738674), 11.55 O Zone (5107754), 12.05 The Simpsons (1334246), 12.30 Pobot Wars (66465), 100 Amund Westminster (47991). 1.30 Sunday Grandstand (90720587). 1.35 Sking (25999007), 2.00 Snooker (222533), 3.40 Racing (5983804). 4.00 Rucky (8998587). 5.10 Animal Zone (5499804), 5.15 Watch Out Britain (2534668). 5.30 Chimpanzee Diary (886281),

5.50 The Natural World. A look at a typical English garden as it passes through various seasons. Namated by Patricia Routledge (R) (S) (569194).

6.45 Skiling. Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the 1999 world alpine skiing championship from Vail in Colorado, featuring the women's downhill (S) (588649).

7.30 The Money Programme. A look at the way music is sold and consumed (910).

8.00 CHOICE Bookmark: Elizabeth Bowen - Death of the Heart. Remembers author Elizabeth Bowen, See Profile of the Day, below (S) (T)*(579552).

8.50 Monet's Gardens (5) (869842).

9.00 A History of Alternative Comedy. Sex and censorship (S) (T) (3842).

9.30 Gimme Gimme Gimme, Tom meets a gorgeous Italian (R) (59129).

10.00 Trade Secrets (S) (T) (414755).

10.10 The Van (Stephen Frears 1996 UK). Engaging adaptation of Roddy Dovie's novel about an unemployed baker who sets himself up in the fast-food business against the backdrop of ireland's 1990 World Cup campaign (S) (T) (402674).

11,50 Snooker (S) (199587), 12,40 Tank Commandos (T) (7964971). 2.00 **BBC Learning Zone: Further** Education - Travel and Tourism (30601), 4.00 Languages: The French Experience: 1-4 (14885), S.00 Business and Treining: Computers Don't Bite: Business - First Steps (2404779), To 5.45am.

ITV LWT

6.00 GMTV (90842). 8.00 Diggit (2188113). 9.25 Art Attack (4078674). 9.50 The Worst Witch (9589910), 10.20 Extreme Chostbusters (9083262) 10.50 Sunday Morning (8037533). 11.50 My Favourite Hymns (6324755). 12.20 Crosstalk (2784787), 12.50 News; Weather (26494736), 1.00 Jonathan Dimbleby (8297397), 1.50 That's Esther (9385194), 2.50 Anatomy of Disaster (2555571).

3.35 Bionic Showdown (Alan Levi 1989 US). Six-million-dollar man Lee Majors and bionic woman Lindsay Wagner are brought out of retirement (5) (731991).

5.25 Big Screen (6173736).

5.55 Dream Ticket. Melanie Sykes in Nashville, USA, and Nick Clarke plays polo in Witshire (277484).

6.25 London Tonight (485939).

6.45 ITN News; Weather (1) (166552).

7.00 Bill Bryson's Notes from a Small Island (S) (T) (2277).

7.30 Coronation Street. Hayley becomes auspicious of Roy (T) (736).

8.00 Heartheat. Soft-focus, 1960s-set police drama. Gina finds herself accused of taking drugs as she attempts to rekindle her singing career. And following a windfall, David makes a foolish investment (S)

9.00 London's Burning. Firefighting soan. Blue Watch look on helplessly as Jack's problems come to a head. And Jean has some startling news for Sicknote (5) (T) (8804).

10.00 Tarrant on TV. More foreign TV with Chris Tarrant (S) (T) (36736).

10.30 ITN News; Weather (T) (263991).

10.45 FHUGE The South Bank Show. Brummie reggae band UB40. See Documentary of the Day, below

11.45 Faith and Music (540571), 12.15 Still in Bed with MaDinner (2534514).

12.50 Full Moon in Blue Water (Peter Masterson 1988 US). Cornedy drama with Gene Hackman (498137).

2.35 Seaguest 2032 (3878427). To 3.25am.

Channel 4

6.40 Dog City (8446825), 7.00 Magic Roundabout (3431674), 7.05 Anemal Alphabet (6279842). 7.20 Safty's Lighthouse (6267221), 7.45 Bug Alert (28323), 845 Saved by the Bell (2265658), 8.40 City Guys (9368945). 940 Caldog (3983674), 9.45 Planet Pop (1003281), 10.00 The Waltons (58007), 11,00 Holyoaks (2756991), 12.10 Dishes (1839113), 12.40 Dishes (9033668), 1.15 Football Italia (E5987552) 3.30 Collectors Lot (3252464)

3.40 Love Me or Leave Me (Charles Vidor 1955 US). Bropic of singer Ruth Etting starring Dons Day and James Cagney (29848587).

6.00 Time Team. Tony Robinson leads a team of archaeologists to Smallhythe in Kent to uncover Henry V's dockyard from the time of Agincourt (T) (59552).

7.00 Remembering Jacqueline du Pre. Another chance to see Christopher Nupen's Without Walls documentary profile of cellist Jacqueine du Pré (R) (T) (8642).

8.00 The Phil. Continuing this docu-scap about the Philharmonia Orchestra. Principal ciarmettist Mice Whight plays a solo which requires bicycle clips. And principal flautist Ken Smith expresses his surprise at his mother's taste in music (T) (9910).

9.00 in Search of Law and Order. Rocer Graef presents a senes which looks at how the UK can import ideas from America to deal with youth crime. Tonight, he tocuses on how Boston officials attempted to stem an epidemic of juvenile killings (T) (2674).

10.00 HILLIGHT City Has (Hardd Becker 1996 US). Political thriller staming Al Pacino, John Cusack and Bridget Fonda. See Film of the Day, below (S) (T) (77078858).

12.05 Boyz Unlimited (R) (S) (T) (6173663). 12.35 NME Premier Live Shows (2984040), 110 4 Later: Babylon 5 (R) (S) (T) (3981750), 2.00 4 Later, Dark Skies (R) (S) (T) (3210682). 2.50 Dweebs (R) (S) (1520866).

3.45 The Music Teacher (Gerard Corbiau 1988 Bel). Operatic drama from Belgium (553885). To 450am.

Channel 5

6.00 Wikilife SOS (9065007), 6.30 Havakazoo (8894858). 7.00 Dappledown Farm (5105303), 7.30 Mikshakel (2743277). 7.35 Wimzie's House (3367129). 8.00 The Mission 41333031, 8.30 The Revelation Game (4132674). 9J00 Stackin' Around (4050026). 9.30 Milithar (9071620). 10.00 Mirror, Mirror (8705910). 10.30 Valley Between (4049910), 11.00 USA High (2097378), 11.30 Singled Out (2098007), 12.00 Mag (60289200). 1.10 5 News (80728910), 1.20 Frostrup on Sunday (89590823), 1.50 Movio Chart Show (11464397), 2,20 Exclusive (6382756), 3.10 Family Affairs Omnibus (63539858), 5.25 Serious Money (21048668).

5.55 Bushwhacked (Greg Beeman 1995 US). Kiddy comedy about an incompetent delivery man (Home Alone's Deniel Stern) who hides out in a scout camp when he is wrongly accused of murder (S) (T)

7.30 5 News and Sport (S) (6570945).

8.00 Wild Secrets. Wildlife documentary. The Australian camera team of Des and Jen Bartlett take a detailed look at the world of the kangaroo (S) (T) (1492674).

9.00 Fill Seventh Floor (Isn Barry 1993 Aus). Rather odd "psychological" thriller starring Brooke Shields as a widow who takes her dead husband's place on the board of a Sydney advertising agency. But another temale executive becomes jealous and schemes with the creative director to oust her from the company (S) (T) (9979457t).

10.50 Wing and a Prayer. Legal drama series set in the north of England. Anna takes on a large pharmaceutical company (T) (6060533).

11.50 The Comedy Network (6302129). 12.20 Sports Talk with Steve Scott (4122205). 12.50 Ice Hockey - NHL (S) (71324514), 4.40 Tips and Fibs (R) (S) (65195595), 5.05 Move On Up (R) (S) (46938717). 5.30 Serious Money (9022392). To 6am.

ITV/Regions

BBC1 N treland As 88C1 England except: 10.25 Let Me Entertien You 157751; 10.55 Understand Business (205736) 11.25 I'm Alan Partinden (620620), 11.55 The Big End 424200; 12.25 Film: Surprises at the Colon Ellistical Barbarians at the Gare (62856). 2.05 The Sky at Night (127931) 2.30 BBC Nows 27 (9508866).

Anglia As LWT except: 12.20 Anglia News Sunday Supplement (2784787) 2.50 Take It On (5385026) 3.20 Comp Wild (8129129) 3.35 Marcer, She Wrote (8129129), 3.35 Marcer, She Wroth (7345281), 4.30 Columbo (1933620), 6.05 Whithfe Rescue (389281), 6.35 Anglia News (58668), 12.45 Shift in Bed with MeDiriner (65166), 12.45 Film: Full Moon in Blun Water (491224), 2.30 Highlander (3886040), 3.25 (49143040), 13886040, 3.25 Inginarion (2008040) 3.225 Jonathan Dimbloby (6320750), 4.40 Cybernet (4783343), 4.40 Soundrax (85324330) 4.50 (1 V Nightscroon (88049040) 5.00 Coronation Street (*1750*

Central As LWT except: 12.20 Lifeting (8627571) 12.25 Nowsmook (978113) 12.45 Central Nows 1264065711 2.50 hts Your Shout (356357) 2.30 fts Your Shout (8561991) 2.35 Murder, Sho Wrote (3976991) 4.45 Film City beneath the Soa (23613194) 6.00 Heart of the Country (200 6.30 Central News and Sport (256129) 4.15 Jobforder (5076137), 5.00 Its Your Shout (77750).

HTY Wales As LWT except: 11.50 My F.tvounte Hymns (4606571) 12.15 Welsh Agenda (647823). 12.45 HTV News (26406571) 2.50 Film: The Beauty Jungle (17359303). 4.55 Phil Collins: Live in Paris (3766200) 6.40 Soccer Sunday

(386552), 6.40 HTV Nows (397668) 12.15 Skil in Bod with McDirasor (65156) 12.45 - 5.00

As Anglia
HTV West
As HTV Wales except: 1235
The Sunday Roast (647823), 12.45
HTV News (36980281), 2.50 On the
Road (5395028), 3.20 (17 Sport
Mrd Classes (3050181), 3.30
Midder, She Wrote (7346910), 4.25
Phil Collins: Lau et Paris (9818200)
5.40 Gottalanys (503267), 6.10
West Match Plus (388552),
Macdillane Meridian

METICIAN As LWT except: 12.20 7 Days 1978/38421 12.40 Mendian News 1264985521 2.50 Murder, Sho Whote (34716201, 3.45 Film) Sentemental Journey (755571) 5.35 Big Day Out (615736) 6.05 Membry Business (38908)) 6.35 Lucal News (5)66691 12:15 - 5.00 As Anglo. 5.00 Freescreen (77750)

Anglo, 5.00 Freestreen (7750).

Westcountry
As LWT except: 12.20
Weekend Maich (2784787), 2.50
Columbo (56132365), 4.40 Film:
Agatha Christies A Caribbean
Mystery (19471026), 6.30
Westcountry Goals Extra (199945)
6.35 Westcountry News (516668), 12.45 Shi in Bed with MeDimer
(65156), 12.45 - 5.00 A; Anglio, Yorkshire/Tyne Tees As LWT except: 12.20 Camival 98 (278-787) 2.50 Local News (3446200), 2.55 Film: The One That Got Away* (85178940), 8.00 Coronation Street (8858), 8.00 Local News (747281) 6.35 Goals on Sunday/Cafe Sport (279571), 12.50 Cybernet (5775972), 1.20 Film: Judwaa (8127575) 4.00 Coach (39679021), 4.25, John (3558896) (39619021), 4.25 Jobs (3558595).

SAC As Channel 4 except: 11.00 Holyoaks (34389587), 12.00 Gogs (61347571), 12.10 Rownd a Rownd (38868378), 12.40 Flei (76229910) Talkabout Welsh (27825533) 2.00 Ffermio (23592194) 2.35 Brookside (93139200) 4.00 Norland Nannies (81234216) 4.30 Pam Fi Duw? (81150200). **5.00** Newyddion (76966620). **5.05** Ewropa (49791945). **5.35** Pobol y Cwm (97400910), **7.30** Dectrau Canu Dectrau Canmol (81231129), 8.00 Botwm 4 (64733303) 8.30 Shan Cothi (64649910) 9.00 Taicen Caled (15990571) 10.05 Newyddion (17413484), 10,20 Film City Half (75628129), 12,25 The Phil (24085150), 1,25 Jacqueline du Pre - Playing with Fire (20365243), 1,55 Close.

130.00

China

PROFILE OF THE DAY

BOOKMARK: ELIZABETH BOWEN -DEATH OF THE HEART (8pm BBC2, dght) Neglected Anglo-Irish novelist Elizabeth Bowen is remembered in the centenary year of her birth. Geraldine McEwan reads from her work and there are the inevitable revelations, including multiple love affairs and a spot of espionage for the British government on the wartime psychology of the Irish.



DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

THE SOUTH BANK SHOW: UB40 1045om ITV, right) Entertaining biography of the Brummie reggae band, filmed in Jamaica and Birmingham Little-known nuggets include the fact that the band each of them unemployed for three years first financed themselves with the proceeds of a criminal injuries pay-out after Ali Campbell was glassed in the face

back to the 1850s. 4; 'Great Characters'. 11.00 News; The Learn-

ing Curve. The intelligent guide to the world of

learning, with consumer features, your feedback and the best lesson ever

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FILM OF

CITY HALL (10pm C4, right) Sharply written and well performed, if often muddled, political satire-cum thriller. Liberal-leaning Democrat New York mayor Al Pacino is dragged into a mysterious street shooting that has left a cop, a small-time mobster and an innocent black child bleeding to death. With John Cusack (as Pacino's right-hand man), Bridge: Fonda and Danny Aiello.



RADIO

Radio 1 (97.6-99.8MHz FM) 1975-988MHz FM)
6.30 Kevin Greening.
10.00 Mark Goodier's
Radio 1 Request Show.
1.00 Llsa l'Anson. 3.00
Top of the Pops. 4.00
The Official UK Top 40.
7.00 Radio 1's Dance
Antherse with Dece Anthems with Dave
Pearce. 10.00 Trevor
Nelson. 12.00 Emma B.
4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills. Radio 2 (88-902MHz FM) 7.00 Don Maclean 9.05 7.00 Don Maclean. 9.05
Sieve Wright's Sunday
Love Songs. 11.00
Parkinson's Sunday
Supplement. 1.00
Desmond Carrington.
3.00 By Popular
Demand. Pogan's for
Lunch - the Ira Gerstwin.
1928 Dary. 4.00 The
Crooners. 4.90 Sing
Something Simple. 5.00
Pam Ayres. 7.00 Hogh
Scully. 8.30 Sunday Half
Hour. 9.00 Alan Ketth.
10.00 Malcolm Laycock.
11.00 The David Jacobs
Collection. 12.00 Katrina
Leskanich. 3.00 - 4.00
Mo Dutta. Mo Dutta Radio 3 (902-924MHz FM) 6.00 On Air. 9.00 Brian Kay's Sunday Moming. **11-00** Artist of the Week Encore. 12.15 Music Matters. 100 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. 2.40 Beecham Conducts Mozart.
3.00 Spirit of the Aga.
4.00 100 Great Singers.
4.15 Centurions.

4.30 The Year.
5.45 Sunday Feature:
Settling the Score.
6.30 Private Passions.
Michael Berkeley's guest

Humphrey Maud, who has just completed five years as deputy-general to the Commonwealth.

He is a passionate music

lover, and his choices

range from cello music by Bach and a fantasia by Purcell to e Mozart

string quartet and Arvo Parts in memoriam to

this week is Sir

Benjamin Britten. 7.30 Choir Works Brian Kay introduces a perfor-mance of one of Handels best-known oratorios 'Israel in Egypt'. The text, from Exodus and Psalms. talk of the captivity of the Jewish people in Egypt, the ten plagues and the crossing of the Red Sea. BBC Singers, London Barroque Solotsts/Stephen

Cleobury.

9.15 Sunday Play:
The Father, By August
Strindberg, translated
and adapted by Ervor
Martinus. One hundred
and fifty years eines ble and fifty years since his birth, August Strindberga drama still finds resonances in today's headlines. A mother knows her child, but the knows her child, but seed of doubt about seed to doubt about paternity can poison a tather's mind beyond repair. With Ronald Pickle, Cheryl Campbell and Eleanor Moriarty. Director Ned Chaillet. 11.00 World Music. Barb Jungr begins a two-part introduction to the vocal music of Iran. Today, the classical and lolk traditions. 11.30 Schumann. (R) 12.00 BBC Symphony

Orchestra. 1.00 - 9.00 Through Radio 4 (924-946MHz FM) 6.00 News Briefing 6.05 Something Understood 6.35 On Your Farm 6.57 Weather 7.05 Sunday Papers.

12.30 Just e Minute. 12.58 Weather. 1.00 The World This Weekend.
1.30 Counterpoint.
2.00 News; Gardeners'
Question Time.
2.45 If I Be a Fisherman. 3.00 News; The Classic 3.00 News; The Classic Serial: Joseph Andrews. 4.00 News; Bookcub. 4.45 Poetry Please. 5.00 News; File on 4. 5.40 Me, Mysetf, Owl. 5.54 Shipping Forecast. 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.15 Pick of the Week 6:15 Pick of the Week. 7:00 News; The Archers. 7:15 Room for Improvement Laurie Tay for and guests explore the art of self-improve-ment, from mastering a

7.10 Sunday. 7.55 Radio 4 Appeal, 8.00 News. 8.05 Sunday Papers. 8.07 Sunday Worship. 8.45 Letter from 9.00 News: Broadcasting House. 10.00 The Archers. 1115 Desert Island

12.00 News; Tales from

the Back of Beyond.

the public eye. 11.30 Something Understood. 12.00 News. 12.15 Diaries of Today. 12.30 The Late Story: 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News.
5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 tranora Forecast.
5.45 Prayer for the Day.
5.47 • 6.00 Farming inguage or appreciating music to sharpening conversational slots.

3.00 News; The Oldest Member Maurice Radio 4 LW (198kHz) Denham stars as the golf club veteran in the last of

mate change. (R) 9.30 in Business.

minster Hour. Andrew

explores the history of

12.00 - 12.04 Ne Headines; Shipping Fore-cast 8.00 - 10.00 Open University. six stories by P G Wodehouse. The Latter of the Law. 8-30 Law in Action. Radio 5 Live (693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Brief Lives 6.30 Breakfast with 8-30 Law in Action.

Marcel Berlins investigates how the law works and where it goes wrong.

9-00 News, Weather Wise, in the last of the series, Paul Simons looks for the evidence of Climan. Andrew Net.
9.00 SportsWeek.
10.00 Hayes on Sunday.
12.00 Ghosts.
12.30 The Media Show. 1.00 Sunday Sport 6.00 The Scottish Premier League. 8.00 News Extra. Susan Bookbinder with the Jump Start. The experts say that British business has a unique opportunity to grow faster. So what is ws and business stopping us? Peter Day 8.30 Brief Lives, 5 Live's

reports. 10.00 News; The Westobituary column. 9.00 Dailyn Worldwide. Richard Dailyn with the stories that matter from Rawnsley presents the political headines of the next week, live from Westminster, including around the world. 9.30 Out This Week The week's lesbian and 10.45 Sketches from the House. Four programmes in which Nick Utechin gay news. 10.00 Late Night Currie Edwina Currie with the weekend's talking points, perilamentary sketch writers, a tradition going including e topical

909693. Plus a full round-up of the day's ate news at 1100. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports. Classic FM

(1000-1019MHz FM 6.00 Sarah Lucas, 9.00 Classic Romance, 12.00 Across the Threshold with David Melor, 2.00 Alan Marm. 4.00 Margaret Howard 6.00 Countdown Top Ten. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven 9.00 Sunday Night at the Opera. 11.00 Michael Mappin. 1.00 Evening Concert 3.00 -Griffiths.

Virgin Radio (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105.8MHz FM) 6.00 Mark Forrest 10.00 Jonethan Ross 1.00 Nick Abbot, 4.00 Janey Lee Grace, 7.30 Harriet Scott / AM from 6.45 Janey Lee Grace 10.00 James Merritt 1.00 Steve Power. 4.30 6.30 Richard Allen. **World Service** 1.30 Meridian (Feature). 2.00 The World Today. 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 Pick of the World 3.00 The World Today.

3.20 Sports Roundup 3.30 Global Business 4.00 - 7.00 The World Talk Radio 6.00 Paul Ross, 10.00 Derek Draper and Peter Hitchens 12.00 Russel Grant. 3.00 Nicky Home's Access All Year. 6.00 Let's Talk Cornedy with Don McLeary and Sanjeev Cohi. 8.00 Cheating Hearts with Jayne Irving 10.00 James Whale 100 -

THE DAY



SATELLITE & CABLE

2.00 - 7.00 Long Play (9013175).

Sky Sports 1
6.00 Watersports World (91823). 7.00 Tour Golf (46200). 9.00 Diving (14262). 10.00 Moto-plus (1968). 10.30 Extreme Sailing (83216). 11.00 Coals on Sunday (45571). 12.00 Triathion (61587). 1.00 Europeen Tour Golf (90533). 3.00 Football Derby County v Everton

3.00 Football Derby County v Everton (3806397), 6.30 Tour Golf (90736), 8.30 Spanish Football (44823), 10.30 Snow Show (34949), 11.00 NFL Pro-Bowl (7513755), 2.30 Close.

540 Closs

Sky Premier
6.00 Ferrmes Patales
(88571). 7.00 Project X
(1967) (87910). 9.00
Reinbow (1996) (63465).
11.00 Kazzam (1996)
(47649). 1.00 Hobywood
8.22 (58787). 1.30 Project
X (1967) (29858). 3.30
Ranbow (1996) (656113).
5.45 Kazzam (1996)
(89688945). 7.00 Bean
(1997) (8828287). 1.90 The
Rat Pack (1998) (84688).
11.30 Copycat (1996)
(89410216). 1.35 Pargo
(1996) (859750). 3.15 6.00 Nina Talkes a Lover
(1996) (88011381). (1995) (88011381).

Sky MovieMax
6.00 Sea Devis" (1937)
(32342) 8.00 Farewel to
the Planet of the Apes
(1974) (58587). 10.00
Dales - JR Returns (1996)
(9129). 12.00 Sea Devis"
(1937) (68910). 2.00
Farewel to the Planet of the
Apes (1974) 52200). 4.00
The Chetiengers (1988)
(5484). 6.00
Possums (1997) (49736).
8.00 Dracular Dead and
Loving It (1995) (53649).

8.00 Dracular Dead and Loving It (1995) (53649). 3.30 The Nated Gun 2 1/2: the Smel of Fear (1991) (5257), 11.00 Spy Hard (1996) (542945), 12.25 The Nurse (1995) (569976), 2.00 A Nightmans on Em Street Part 2: Fractor's Revence (1985) (9199089), 3.25 A Nightmans on Em Street 3: Dream Warriors (1997) (197069), 5.05 The Challengers (1998) (3227371).

(1995) (880)(381)

(382737),
Sky Cinema
11.00 Seyond the Blue
1 22382378. 6.40 The hrvis-bie Man* (1933) (43927533). 8.00 Hollywood Alers & Monsters (1989)(). 10.00 The Abvss (1989) (7238804). 12.20 Earth vs the Fiving Saucers* (1956) (5888569). 1.45 Destina-tion Moon (1950) (2033224). 3.35 The Fighting Seabees (1944) (2348799). Film Four 6.00 Sweet Smell of Success" (1957) (14342282), 73.5 Lovely (9188007), 6.00 Things Change (1888) (66529026), 9.40 Veges Shift (2881945), 10.00 Miler's Crossing 10.00 Miler's Crossing (1990) (#157378), 12.00 Partitler (1995) (2729682), 2.00 • 6.00 The Deer Hunter (1978) (3283601)

Hunter (1978) (2283601).

Discovery
Chamnel
4.00 Fights (6794200.
5.00 Fights (6794200.
5.00 Fights (6794200.
5.00 Fights (6794200.
5.30 Cotranes Planes and Automobies (8604649).
6.00 Shipweed (8111656).
7.00 The Supernatural (475007). 7.30 Creatures Featests (864029).
6.00 War and Chilisetton (649219). 10.00 War and Chilisetton (649219). 10.00 War and Chilisetton (6325514). 10.00 Justice Fise (7768021). 2.00 Close. Sky One 6.00 Hour of Power

6.00 Hour of Power H2533, 7.00 Bump in the Night (88216). 7.30 Street Starks (94823). 8.00 Orson and Office (89842). 8.30 Teenage Alien Fighters (8813). 9.00 The Sampsons (79465). 9.30 Garfield and Friends (13397). 10.00 Dream Team (90007). 11.00 leam (90007), 11.60 Wresting (9870), 12.00 Just Kidding (9703), 12.30 Just Kidding (9703), 10.00 Superman (12668), 2.00 Beverly Hils, 90210 (61007), 3.00 VID (98889), 4.00 3.00 VP (25668) 4.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (98213) 5.00 Star Trek: Duniermine v Rangers 137614277). 8.30 Cricket South Africa v West Indies (51032656). 10.30 Football Voyager (3592). **6.00** The Simpsons (4484). **6.30** The Simpsons (5736). **7.00** King of the Hill (1281). **7.30** 3rd Flock from the Sun (4620). 8.00 Earth: Final Conflict (55397), 9.00 Ultraviolet (35533), 10.00 Naked in Westminster (38620), 11.00 South Park (97084), 11.30 Forever

Sky Sports 2 7.00 Aerobics (269715): 7.30 World Sport Special (3142200): 8.00 Socra Ex ra (174528): 11.00 Sports Unimised (1142020): 12.00 Football (2571200): 2.00 Westernorts Westernorts Football (2571200): 2.00 Wellersports World (2369465), 3.00 Golf USA (7085262); 5.00 NASCAR (4464623); 6.30 The Snow Show (3672552); 8.00 Moto-bus (301698); 8.30 Golf USA (1142658); 11.30 Serior PGA Tour (2357620); 12.00 Football (5025175); 3.00 Close. Close.

Sky Sports 3
8.00 Futures (88978910).
8.30 South Africa v West Indies (\$5683465). 12.00
Cricket (86986387). 12.00
Cricket (86986387). 14.00
Cricket (82007823). 4.00
Cricket (82007823). 5.30
World Sport (87012842).
6.00 Scottish Football
Durismiline v Rancers

Derby County v Everton (45055259), 12.00 Close. 7.30 Ski Jumping (21991) 8.00 Bobsleigh (15552) 9.00 Bisthion (12858) 10.00 Bobseigh (23303) 11.00 Beshlori (47339), 12.00 Ski Jumping (63804), 1.30 Bastilon (63891), 2.00 Skating (683755), 3.45 Tennis (504939), 4.45 Tennis

[299842] 6.00 Alpine Ski-ing (89839) 7.00 Car on ice 5649, 7.30 X Games (61823) 8.30 Skating (3804) 9.00 Athlet-ics (86649), 10.00 Sportowe wydarzenia roku 96 (63822), 10.15 Sking (49413), 11.15 Ski Jumping (931465), 12.30 Close, 961465). 12,30 Close.
UK Gold
7,00 Angels [9887262].
7,30 Middlemarch
(1707257). 8,45 Dr Who
(966484). 9,40 Dallas
(4728994). 11,35 Films:
Fall of the Fornan Empire
(1964). (13696587). 3,00
The Bit (96058276). 5,20
Keeping Up Appearances
(1123674). 6,00 Ballykissan
gel (60573820). 7,05 Goog
el (60573820). 7,05 Goog (1123674), 6.00 Ballykissangel (60673650), 7.05 Good Life (3335587), 7.45 To the Manor Born (7559129), 8.25 Only Foole and Horses (8964736), 9.05 Black-Adder II (8673026), 9.45 Black-Adder II (8673804), 11.40 Whatever Happened to the Lifety Lads? (3427804), 12.20 Ruby Wax Meets... Rosearme (8506999), 1.55 Minder (3591408), 3.00 - 7.00 Shopping (6569408).

Gredysaurus (64338571). 6.50 Polka Dot Shorts (84326736). 2.00 Practical ga.sa/sa) 7.00 Practical Parenting (5085736). 7.05 Professor Bubble (8679620). 7.30 Barney and Friends (3955804). 7.55 Practical Parenting (4309552). 8.05 Calliou (1524858). 8.05 Bug Alert (4955842). 8.25 baloos (1831649). 8.36 Calliou (8102465). 8.35 Tiny and Craw (5468571). 8.35 and Crew (5468571), 8.50 Parenting (7799262), 9.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook

Can't Cook, Won't Cook, (\$428007), 240 Michael Cole (\$12794, 10.30 Brookside (\$397842), 12.30 LA Law (\$87649), 3.00 Films Bundle of Joy (\$956), (4964277), 5.00 Special Babies (\$7898216), 5.30 Living Issues (\$40013), 6.00 Films: A Mother's Courage the Mary Thomas Story (\$989) (\$84007), 8.00 Files.

cue 911 (7712200), 8.30 Beyond Belief: (7708007). 9.00 Jerry Springer (†188823). 11.00 The Sex Files (7041804). 12.00 Close.

9.00 Fame (1980) (9749723). 11.30 Catlow (1971) (68723571). 1.30 Eye of the Deat' (1967) (5480156). 3.00 The Walk-ing Stick (1970) (95232214). 5.00 Close.

Paramount Comedy Channel Z00 Jenny (1823), 7.30 Grace Under Fire (4262) 8.00 Ellen (5741), 8.30 Newsradio (6375), 9.00 Drop the Dead Donkey (66939), 9.30 Drop the Dead Donkey (60856). 10.00 Dead Donkey (50939). 10.30 Dead Donkey (32567). 11.00 Whose Line is it Anyway? (61484) 11.30 Lee Evans (66674). 12.00 Duckman (66866). 12.00 Dubinman (95956). 1.00 We Know Where You Live (96798). 1.30 Cornedy Store (73777). 2.00 Club Class (43137). 2.30 Or Kota (55972). 3.00 Nightstand (16934). 3.30 Albott & Costello (46234). 4.00 Class

4.00 Close Granada Plus 6.00 Jason King (6165216). 7.00 Bootsie and Snudge (8009465) 7.30 No and Dearest (8011200). 8.00 Doctor on the Go (6023133) 8.30 Dh and Greg (373673) 9.00 Demosey and Makeponco (577413) 10.00 Return of the Samt (8017384), 11.00 The Resum of Sherlock Holmos (8097620) 12.00 (9421638). **LOO** Noarest and Dearest (8008736) 1.30 Please, Sel (9526282). 2.00 Point (8692129) 3.00 Boronza (4806945) 4.00 The High Chaparra (4712552) 5.00 Classic orunation Street Omrabus (7528303) 7.30 Dhan (7528303) 7.30 Uharms and Greg (449281) 8.00 Point (8856151) 9.00 The Professionals (9472295) 10.00 The Odd Couple (9928769), **10.30** Hogans Heroes (7679277), **11.00**

(7637281) 2.00 Close

FULL 7-DAY TV AND RADIO LISTINGS APPEAR IN 'THE INFORMATION'







HII WHAT WERE WAR

33 1 133

7.00 Mark Goodier. 10.00 Chris Moyles, 1.00 Lisa (Anson, 3.00) Pete Tong. 7.00 Danny Rampling Lovegroove Dance Party, 9.00 Vestwood - Radio 1 Rap Show 12.00 Radio 1 Reggae Dancehall Nite. 2.00 Essential Mix: Optical and Ed Rush. 4.00 - 6.30 Annie

RADIO 2 (88-90.2MHz FM) 6.00 Mo Dutta. 8.05 Brian Matthew. 10.00 Steve Wright's Saturday Show. 1.00 The Smith Lectures. 1.30 The Newly Discovered Casebook of Sherlock Holmes. 2.00 Alan Freeman. 3.30 Johnnie Walker. 5.30 Paul Gambaccini. 7.00 The American Trilogy. 8.00 The Dave Matthews Band in Concert. 9.00 Suzi Quatro: Rockin' with Suzi Q. 10.00 Bob Harris. 1.00 Lynn Parsons. 4.00 - 7.00 Mo Dutta.

RADIO 3 (902-924MHz FM) **6.00** On Air. 9.00 CD Review. 100 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. (R) 2.00 Best of 3. 3.00 Young Artists' Forum. 4.00 The Secrets of Orchestration. 5.00 Jazz Record Requests. 6.00 Jazz Century. 6.30 Opera on 3. Verdi's musical

drama set in 14th-century Genoa, where patricians and plebeians are vying for power. One of the composer's most sensuously lyrical operas, with atmospheric musical seascapes and noctumal romances and eloquent ensembles, and a convincingly rounded portrait of Boccanegra, the self-made man who rises to become doge but sacrifices himself for his daughter's happiness. With Karita Mattila, soprano (Amelia), Placido Domingo, tenor (Adomo), Alexandru Agache, baritone (Boccanegra) and Roberto Scandiuzzi, bass (Jacopo Fiesco). Metropolitan Opera Chorus and Orchestra/James Levine, Act 1. See Pick of the Day.

New York Stories.

SKY PREMIER

6.00 We the Jury (1996) (44051). 8.00 Cocoon (1985) (95438), 10.00 Nico the

Unicom (1998) (30438). 12.00 About Sarah (1998) (783983). 1.45 We the Jury

Black (1997) (56490), See Pick of the Day. 10.00 Escape from LA (1996) (874186). 11.45 Mulholland Fells (1996) (906544).

1.35 The Experts (1989) (302216). 3.30 6.00 Naked Souls (1995) (69661020).

7.00 Movie Magic (38631). 7.30 Action Heroes (5988254). 8.15 UK Top Ten

(9152772). 9.00 Tell Me No Lies (1991)

Heroes (9697612), 2.15 UK Top Ten

(2735322). 3.00 Looking for Trouble (1995) (85322). 5.00 The Kid (1997)

3:457). 7:00 Tell Me No Lies (1991) 7:167). 9:00 Big Night (1995) (64419). 11:00 Margaret's Museum (1995)

(739709). 12.45 Whiskey Down (1995)

(930465), 2:15 Clean and Sober (1968)

11.00 Double Dynamite (1951) (2778186)

12.30 Golden Earrings (1947) (51829051). 2.15 The Stars Look Down (1939)

(2221186). 4.00 Artists and Models (1955)

(7820273), 6.00 Sink the Bismarck! (1960)

(1282693). **6.00** The Milagro Beanfield War (1987) (1294438). **10.00** Black Sunday (1977) (69424902). **12.25**

Dirty Mary, Crazy Larry (1974) (4960910). 2.00 Three Hours to Kill (1954)

(50372945). 3.20 Double Dynamite (1951)

(80811484). 4.45 - 6.00 The Dark Past

6.00 The Lost World (1960) (98267780).

7.45 Flying over Mother (9055709), 8.00 Stand by Me (1986) (8687235), 10.00

Southern Comfort (1981) (4253506), 12,00 Damage (1992) (2752910), 2,00 Blow-Up

4.00 Battle for the Skies (6807728). 5.00 A Century of Warfare (4855506). 6.00 A

Century of Warfare (9862344), 7.00 High

Anxiety (6426273), 8.00 Storm Force (6402693), 9.00 Speedi Crashi Rescuel

(6422457). 10.00 Forensic Detectives (6425544) 11.00 A Century of Warters

(1966) (8677945), 4.00 - 6.00 Subway

SCOVERY CHANNEL

(91248281). 4.20 - 6.00 Looking for

Trouble (1995) (735262)

SKY CINEMA

(1948) (62028674).

EII MEOUR

(77032). **11.00** The Kid (1997) (68186). **1.00** Movie Magic (37902). **1.30** Action

SKY MOVIEMAX

1996) (46174341): 3.50 Coccor (1985)

(30631). 5.30 Nico the Unicom (1998) (92761), 7.30 Preview (4099), 8.00 Men in

SATURDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

Hour.

AN ILLUMINATING account of her last great work Oroonoko, Novel Encounters with Aphra Behn (2.30pm R4) examines her story of a West African prince tricked into slavery. Inspired by Behn's visit to the British colony of Surinam in 1663, we hear from a number of interested parties, including Gregory Doran, director of a stage adaptation for the RSC.

7.30 Simon Boccanegra, Act 2 8.25 The Met Opera Quiz.

lenkins and Michelle Krisel

thinkers tackle challenging questions sent in by listeners. Joining Joan Bakewell are scientist Paul Davies, historian

Martin Bernheimer puts listeners' questions to John Ardoin, Speight

8.55 Simon Boccanegra, Act 3.

10.05 The Brains Trust, Leading

Orlando Figes, theologian Angela Tilby and professor of political theory David McLellan. 10.50 Bingham Quartet.

Tchaikovsky: String Quartet No 3 in E flat minor, Op 30. (R)

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

11.30 Jazz on 3.

(924-94.6MHz FM)

6.00 News Briefing. 6.05 Sports Desk.

6.10 Open Country.

9.00 Home Truths.

Correspondent.

12.55 Weather.

1.15 Any Questions?.

100 News.

010 0444.

11.30 From Our Own

10.00 News; Loose Ends.

12.00 News; Money Box.

11.00 News; Food Programme.

12.30 The Ghost of Number Ten.

2.00 News; Any Answers? 0870

Aphra Behn. See Pick of the Day.

The House Swap. See Pick of the

3.00 News; The Saturday Play:

2.30 Novel Encounters with

6.57 Weather.

7.00 Today.

RADIO 4

A shame they couldn't air the old one, by Southerne, but Peter Tinniswood's The House Swap (3pm R4) justifies its slot: shades of Chekhov, Laurie Lee and Edward Albee hang over this tale of marital disaffection, which stars Penelope Wilton. Tonight's Opera on 3 (6.30pm

R3), Verdi's Simon Boccanegra, stars Placido Domingo (right). DOMINIC CAVENDISH

4.00 News: Weekend Woman's

5.00 Saturday PM.

5.30 Talking Pictures.

5.54 Shipping Forecast. 5.57 Weather.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.15 Live from London.

7.00 News; Saturday Review.

Harrison writes an audio letter

7.45 Letter from Laramie. Fraser

from his cowboy childhood in his

back garden in 1940s Liverpool.

Do big boys still need the Wild

8.00 News: The Archive Hour.

Born Again in a New Condition.

diaries and letters to explore the

people and Britain from the 16th

9.00 News; The Classic Serial:

century to the Second World War.

Author David Dabydeen uses

relationship between black

Dona Flor and Her Two

Husbands. By Jorge Amado, dramatised in three parts by

Stuart Morris. 3: 'Second Coming'. In Salvador da Bahia,

Brazil, the young widow Dona Flor has married the respectable,

bassoon-playing pharmacist, Dr Teodoro. But she is not allowed to

John Rowe. Director David Hunter,

11.00 News; Scaling the Moun-

tain. Robert Dawson Scott invites

revisit a major musical challenge.

forget the dissolute Vadinho, her

Carvello, Tristan Sturrock and

10.00 News and Weather.

a performer or composer to

10.15 The Moral Maze.

first husband. With Lesley



11.30 Parkes and Gardens. Tha Wild Side'. Entrance to hell or Arcadian escape, our view of the Yorkshire Dales has changed through the ages, but our need for wild places has remained. Simon Parkes joins the people manager our landscapes. (R) 12.25 Experimental Feature: Star Tales. (R)

12.30 The Late Story: My Son, the Bird. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.50 - 6.00 Bells on Sunday.

RADIO 4 LW (198kHz) 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast.

RADIO 5 LIVE (693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Dirty Tackle. 6.30 Breakfast. 9.00 Chiles on Saturday. 11.00 Move It. 11.30 Sick as a Parrot. 12.00 Sportscall 1.00 Sport on 5. Rugby Union:

the start of the Five Nations rugby championship, with Ireland v France at Lansdowne Road and Scotland v Wales at Murrayfield. Football: reports. goal news and commentary on a too game. FA Carling Premiership fixtures include Nottingham Forest v Man Utd, West Ham vs Arsenal, and Liverpool vs

Middlesbrough, 600 Sports Report, Classified football, rugby and racing, plus reports, interviews and comment. 6.30 The Late Six-O-Six. 8.00 Dallyn UK. Richard Dallyn with news from around the UK. 9.00 The Treatment. Stuart Maconie and guests review the week's news

10.00 Late Night Currie. Edwina Currie with the weekend's big issues, including sport in depth at 10.30, and a news briefing at 11.00. Phone 0500 909693. 1.00 - 6.00 Up All Night Richard Dallyn with news from Britain and around the world.

CLASSIC FM (100.0-101.9MHz FM) 6.00 Sarah Lucas. 8.00 Countdown, 11.00 Masters of Their Art. 12.00 Mike Read. 3.00 Margaret Howard. 6.00 Classic FM at the Movies. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Opera Guide. 10.00 The Classic Quiz. 12.00 Midnight Music. 2.00 -2.01 Evening Concert. 4.00 -6.00 Sunday Start.

VIRGIN RADIO (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 1058MHz FM) 6.00 Richard Allen. 9.00 Harriet Scott. 12.00 Classic Countdown with Russ Williams. 2.00 Rock and Roll Football. 5.30 Wheels of Steel 10.00 Janey Lee Grace. 2.00 - 6.00 Steve Power, **WORLD SERVICE RADIO**

(198kHz LW) 100 Newsdesk. 130 Best on Record. 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 Agenda. 3.00 The World Today. 3.15 Sports Roundup. 3.30 World Business Review. 3.45 Letter from America. 4.00 The World Today. 4.30 Omnibus. 5.00 The World Today. 5.30 -6.00 Women Who Dared to Speak.

TALK RADIO 6.00 OK to Talk. 8.00 Danny Baker's Moming Edition. 12.00 it's Round and White - with Tom Watt. 2.00 The SportZone -Soccer Special. 5.05 505 with Gary Newborn and Tom Watt. 7.30 Nancy Roberts. 10.00 Dave Barrett's Phone-In with the Midnight Psychic. 2.00 - 6.00

Dot Shorts (1548438). 8:10 Tiny and Crew

8.30 Callou (8208693). 8.35 Tiny and

Crew (5571099), 8.50 Practical Parenting (7895490), 9.05 Cartt Cook, Wortt Cook

(8217341). **9.35** Fleady, Steady, Cook (7988761). 10.10 Maury Povich (5853896).

11.00 Living Issues (9240877), 11.30 The

Roseanne Show · Highlights (924506).

12.00 Entertainment Now! (5239877).

Film: All About Eve (1950) (5945693).

6.00 Film: Her Life as a Man (1984) (1280235). 8.00 Rescue 911 (7825728)

8.30 Beyond Belief (7804235). 9.00 Jer

ry Springer Double Bill (1284051), 11.00

The Sex Files (7147032), 12-00 Close.

12.30 LA Law Omnibus (4283877). 3.00

'96 (1932322), **8.15** Happy Birthday (1536693), **8.25** Babaloos (1937877).

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS JON SPEELMAN

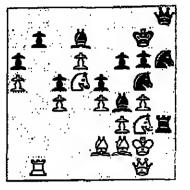
THE TENTH International Open starts today in Calcutta, sponsored by the Goodricke tea company, part of the Lawrie group of which the England team's staunch sponsors Duncan Lawrie are the hub. This excellent tournament is surely the strongest in Asia, surpassing even the powerful annual event in Peking.

You never quite know who will play in an Open until you get there but the list of entrants which I received before departing for India was formidable indeed. Seventeen grandmasters were confirmed, of whom six are in the top 100 headed by Alexei Fedorov (Belarus) rated 2,648 and another Alexei - Dreev (Russia) 2,639 plus Viktor Bolgan (Moldavia), myself, Sergei Dolmatov (Russia) and Jaan Ehlvest (Estonia). And Suat Atalik (Turkey) was expected. At the Bundesliga last weekend, I even heard a rumour that Judit Polgar may turn out.

Twenty-six-year-old Alexei Fedorov has been round about the 2,600 mark for a while but sprang up 48 points in the last six-month rating period. He has an extremely active style, playing 1 e4 as White and defending the Sicilian Dragon and King's Indian as Black. This is his explosive victory against the normally extremely solid Zurah Azmaiparashvili from the recent Olympiad.

In his notes in "Informant 73" Fedorov suggests 17 ... Nc8 intending ...Bh6. Although White's kingside is 15 Nf1 c5 somewhat weakened he further indicates 24 Kg2 rather than 24 Ng3 which is intended to prevent ... f5 - and feels that the white queenside attack starting with b4 is the more potent.

Fedorov got a powerful attack down the h file and with admirable 23 Kf1 Rh8 restraint refrained from the enticing 31 ...Rh2+ 32 Kxh2 Qh8+ 33 Kg1 Qh3 34 Be2 Bxg3 when 35 Nf1! 26 b4 Bf4



m

defends. White was just about to hreak through in the diagram when Fedorov got in first. If 39 fxg4 Rxg3+ 40 Bxg3 Qh3+ 41 Kf2 Bxg3+ 42 Qxg3 Nxe4+. The rest was

White: Zurab Azmaiparashvili White: Alexei Fedorov Elista Olympiad 1998 King's Indian Defence

27 Kg2 Rxh1 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 28 Qxh1 Rh8 29 Qh1 Qc8 3 Nc3 Bg7 30 Ne3 Ng5 4 e4 d6 5 Nf3 0-0 31 hxc5 Rh3! 6 Be2 e5 32 Be2 QhS 7 Be3 Ng4 33 Qg1 dxc5 8 Bc5 f6 34 Rb1 Bc3 9 Bh4 Nc6 35 Rd1 Ng8 10 d5 Ne7 36 d6 Bd7 37 Nd5 Nh6 11 Nd2 h5 12 h3 Nh6 38 Rbt (see diagram Nxg4! 13 g4 hxg4 39 Nxf4 exf4 14 hxg4 Nf7 40 fxg4 fxg3 16 Ne3 Bd7 41 Bxg3 Rxg3+ 17 Bd3 Qa5 42 Kxg3 Qh3+ 43 KE Nxe++ 18 Nc2 a6 19 a4 Nc8 44 Ke1 Qc3+ 20 f3 Od8 45 Kft Nd2+ 21 a5 Bh6 46 Kf2 Qd4+ 47 Kg3 Qe5+ 22 Bf2 Kg7 48 Kf2 Qf4+ 24 Ne2 Ne7 49 Ke1 Nxb1

50 Qxc5 Qg3+

BRIDGE

25 Ng3 Qc7

HAVING GONE down, albeit unluckily, in his contract of Four Hearts on this deal, declarer asked his partner how be would have tackled the hand. "Differently!" was North's succinct reply Can you see what he had in mind?

Playing five-card majors. South opened One Heart and North bid his hand to the limit by raising pre-emptively to game. South even considered going on but be passed and West led O'K against Four Hearts. A cross-ruff was a possi bility, but dummy's spades offered a tempting alternative and declarer, after discarding a club from dummy, won with A and followed with the ace and another spade.

While West discarded a club, East won and forced dummy with another diamond lead, effectively shutting off the spade suit. Now, no matter what South tried, there was no way to avoid four losers. If he attempted to ruff his losing diamonds in dummy, West would come to VJ and, equally, the long spades could no longer be brought n as West now held more trumps than dummy.

When pressed, dummy amplified his cryptic remark. His suggestion

North **◆Q98743** ♥Q 10 7 3 ♦ none East ♠K 10 6 **+**3 ♥J864 ♥ none ♦KQ952 **�J874 ♣**A75 ♣K 108642 South **+**A52 ♥AK952 ♦A 10 6 3

Game all: dealer South

(which seems to work) was to discard a spade, not a club, from the table at trick I and follow with a club lead. Now the defenders are helpless - even if West wins and switches to a trump, there are still 10 tricks on a cross-ruff.

Was there a case, I wonder, for the seemingly suicidal opening lead of a trump from the West hand? - a hrief analysis suggests that this, followed by careful defence, leads to the defeat of the contract whatever declarer tries.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

SCI-FI COMEDIES have not of", have tremendous fun as the From Outer Space will know. scum of the universe." However, Men in Black (8pm

of humour that we are aware

always been successful - as agents who live by the motto anyone who has seen Morons "protecting the Earth from the

Norman Hunter, whose beyday Sky Premier), proved a big hit was in the 1970s, had one of the with its comic treatment of the hest ever football nicknames: idea of American agents policing "Bites Your Legs". The hardthe aliens they allow to come man defender, who enjoyed great to Earth. Will Smith and Tommy success with Leeds United and Lee Jones (right), who utters England, is profiled in Bobby the immortal deadpan line "we Charlton's Football Scrapbook at the FBI do not have a sense (5.30pm Sky Sports 1).

JAMES RAMPTON



(9990780). 12.00 A Century of Warfare (6358842). **1.00** Weapons of War (7708649). **2.00** Close.

SKY ONE 7.00 Bump in the Night (10235). 7.30 Street Sharks (22070), 6.00 Adventures of Sinbad (87709), 9.00 The Simpsons (83032). 9.30 Garfield and Friends (27964). 10.00 The Best of the Chris Evans Show (28254). 11.00 World Wrestling Federation Live Wire (93790). 12.00 World Wrestling Federation Shot Gun (40815), 1.00 The New Adventures of Superman (26235), 2.00 America's Dumbest Criminals (4506), 2.30 America's Dumbest Criminals (7916). 3.00 Guityl (39235), 4.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (41070), 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (7693), 6.00 Xene: Warrior Princess (46099), 7.00 VIP (83544), 8.00 JAG (69964), 9.00 Film: Sky One Special Feature: Damien - Omen II (1978)

(82051). **11.00** Beat the Crusher (29983). **12.00** Showbiz Weekly (85736). **12.30** The Big Easy (89705). **1.30** Fire (21281). **2.30** • **6.00** Long Play (5688215). SKY SPORTS 1 8.00 Hold the Back Page (80790), 7.00 European Tour Golf (74457), 9.00 Hold the Back Page (68457). 10.00 Racing News (30525). 10.30 International Cricket South Africa vs West Indies (78254). 12.00 Gillette Soccer Saturday (5431709). 5.30 Bobby Chariton's Footbal Scrapbook (68438). See Pick of the Day. 7.00 Budweiser Basketball (65709). 8.00 Set-

urday Fight Night (38821). 11.00 Mex Power (54693). 12.00 Spanish Football (69213). 2.00 Saturday Fight Night (44216), 4.00 - 6.00 Budweiser Basket-**SKY SPORTS 2**

6.00 Sky Sports Centre (2149070). 7.00 Aerobics · Oz Style (3348803). 7.30 Racing News (2168708). 6.00 Soccer AM (2655896). **12.00** World Tenpin Bowling Masters (3176099), **1.00** World Motor Sport (1573525). **4.00** Max Power (4102490). **5.00** Diving (5435070). **8.00** European Tour Golf (5512051). **6.00** Ford Golf USA (1174457). 11.00 International Cricket (5784983). 2.30 Second Innings (3895113). 3.00 · 7.00 International Cricket (8541736).

SKY SPORTS 3 12.30 European Tour Golf (26577490). 2.00 Diving (48536885). 3.00 Ford Golf USA (40638815). 5.00 World Motorsport (98045916), 8.00 Sparrish Football (92320254), 10.00 Diving (92309761). 11.00 Gillette World Sport Special 17603186), 11.30 Extreme Salling (57081790). 12.00 Close. EUROSPORT 7.30 Winter X Games (59148). 8.00 Bobsleigh (64506). 8.30 Biathlon (83419).

7.00 Tennis (10612). 8.00 Tobogganing (96032). **9.00** Bobsleigh (16896). **10.00** Tobogganing (19983). **11.00** Boxing (49761). **12.00** Tractor Pulling (69277). **1.00** Close. UK GOLD

7.00 Angels (9983490), 7.30 Neighbours Ormibus (74438709), 9.25 Datas Ormibus (81031148), 12.10 EastEnders Ormibus (17608438), 3.00 The Bil Omnibus (86073896), 5.25 Butterfiles (155273), 6.05 Films That Riviera Touch (1966) (61974070). **8.00** What a Carry Onl. (6067677). **8.35** Only Fools and Horses (5354631). 9.45 The Thin Blue Line (8775438). 9.55 One Foot in the Grave (2941032). 10.35 Monty Python's Flying Circus (2251728), 11.15 Live at Jongleurs (7583983), 11.50 The Man from Auntie (3552544). **12.30** French and Saunders (1619842). **130** Film: Island of Terror (1966) (4349007), **6.00 - 7.00** Shopping with Screenshop (6592736).

IIVING 8.00 Tiny and Crew (37007815). 6.20 Johnson and Friends (83914186), 6.20 Philipert the Frog (12095273), 6.40 Tiny 8 (84442726), 6.45 Greedyssuru Tales (84442728): 5.45 Greecyssurus and the Gang (84441089): 6.50 Polica Dot Shorts (84422964): 7.00 Practical Parenting (5161964): 7.05 10 plus 2 (5912167): 7.20 Bedtime Stories (5101728). 7.25 Babaicos (5100099), 7.30 Callou (1170726), 7.35 Bug Alert (7969761), 7.55 Practical Parenting (4405780), 8.00 Polka

6.00 Skyjacked (1972) (92327167), 11.00 Brass Target (1978) (40635728). 1.00 Brotherty Love (1969) (40513552), **3.00** Skylacked (1972) (61937002). **5.00** Close. PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL 7.00 Clueless (8964). 7.30 Grace under Fire (1983). 8.00 Ellen (7612). 8.30 News-radio (3419). 6.00 Drop the Dead Donkey (94186). 9.30 Drop the Dead Donkey (18815). 10.00 Drop the Dead Donkey (71896). 10.30 Drop the Dead Donkey

(80544). **11.00** Whose Line is it Anyway (39631). **11.30** The World of Lee Evans (27051), 12.00 Duckman (32668), 12.30 We Know Where You Live (95649), 1.00 Cornedy Store (84945). 1.30 Club Class (12026), 2.00 Dr Katz (91194), 2.30 Tibs and Fibs (83129), 3.00 Nightstand (71281) 3.30 Abbott & Costello (942B1). 4.00 **GRANADA PLUS 6.00** Jason King (8198544). **7.00** Bootsie and Snudge (8105693). **7.30** Leave it to Charlie (8124729). **8.00** Holding the Fort (7774821). 8.30 Mind Your Language R124362\ 9.00 Mission: Impossible

(5870341). 10.00 The Persuaders (8113612), 11.00 Man in a Suitcase (8100148), 12.00 The Bounder (7231658). 12.30 Emmerdale (8486815). 3.00 Bonanze (4839273). 4.00 The High Chaparral (4818780), 5.00 Hawaii Five-O (5099525), 5.00 The Persuaders (8277790). 7.00 Mission: Impossible (5802231). **6.00** The Return of Sherlock Holmes (5002439), 9.00 El CID (5107063), 10.00 The Odd Couple (9679457), 10.30 Hogan's Heroes (3374065). 11.00 Grana-da Men & Motors (7740709). 2.00 Close.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

10.00 Bobsleigh (48032). 11.00 Biethion (10964) 12.30 Speed Stating (92677). 1.00 Luge (80032). 2.00 Speed Stating (15157). 4.00 Ski Jumping (92728). 5.00 Tennis (4761). 6.00 Alpine Skiling (57916).

BBC1 N IRELAND Ls BBC1 England except: 5.50 Vorthern keland Results (31(341), 6.10 lews; Weather (645186) **BBC1 SCOTLAND**

as BBC1 England except: 6.20 reporting Scotland (902983), 10,35 portscene · March of the Day (5766341). 3BC1 WALES is BBC1 England except: 6.20 Vales Today (902963).

Vales Today (902983).

1 VGLIA

L. TWT except: 12.30 Pirate TV

5193) 1.05 Angla News and Weather
57965982). 1.45 Champions of the
luture (162506). 2.15 Airwolf (9609983).

1.10 The Black Swan (61254235). 5.05
lingla News and Sport (8911322). 10.55
lim: Wyatt Earp. Dodge City lawman

Vyatt Earp was dangerous company and
levin Costner plays him as an inflexible,
inteeling aggressor. This is the dark side
4 an abiding Western myth, told in the
lodding manner of a mini-series. There
he exceptional sequences but it tacks the
pic gravity of Unforgiven and the sheer re exceptional sequences but it along the pic gravity of Unforgiven and the sheer on of Tombstone. With Dennis Qualid. 31759683). 2.15 The Jerry Springer Show 7010649). 2.55 Box Office America.

1

(1554823), 3.20 World Football (80443200), 3.50 CD UK (4099303), 4.45 Soundtrax (83817823), 5.05 TV Nightscreen (7900397).

CENTRAL CENTRAL
As LWT except: 12.30 Premiere
(51148). 1.05 Central Naws and Weather
(57965982). 1.10 On the Bati (45934380).
1.40 The Secret KGB JFK Assassination
Files (1528867). 3.00 Film: Murder by the
Book. Meek-mannered mystery writer's
after ego helps thim solve a murder case
architecture of pengal in distincts and a fake involving a damsel in distress and a fake antiques scam. Fanctful crime caper anuques scan, remains crime caper remained unreleased for over a year. With Robert Hays, Catherine Mary Stewart. (61246815). 5.05 Central News, Weather and Goals Extra (8911322). 4.00 Jobfinder (20026). 5.00 Spotlight Asia (23587).

HTV WALES HTV WALES
As LWT except: 12.30 Movies,
Games and Videos (81148): 1.05 HTV
News (57965982): 1.45 Pirate TV
(162508): 2.15 Airwolf (315085): 3.05
seaQuest DSV (6300438): 3.55 Team
Knight Rider (2625186): 5.05 HTV Wales
News and Sport (8911322): 10.55 Film:
Wyatt Earp (31789693): 2.15 The Jerry
Springer Show (7010649): 2.55 Box Office America (1554823), 3.20 World Football (80443200), 3.50 CD UK (4099303), 4.45 Soundtrax (83817823), 5.05 ITV Nightscreen (7900397). HTV WEST

As HTV Wales except: 12.30 Sportsweek (61148). 1.00 News; Weather (13508371). 1.45 Movies, Games and Videos (162506). 2.45 Pirale TV (8232)419), 2.40 Dinosaurs (4526877). 5.05 HTV West News and Sport (8911322), 8.40 News Headlines; National MERIDIAN

As LWT except: 12.30 Oinoseurs 81149, 1.05 Meridian News and Weather (57965982). 1.45 Chempions of the Future (162506). 2.15 Pirate TV (187815). 2.45 Film: in Love and War. The women 2.45 Film: In Love and War. The woman weep while their boys fight oversess in the Pacific. Big bloated soep ladies on the gloss, it's not the type of film you'd expect to see mordant comedian Mort Sahi take part in but there he is, as ethnic relief. With Jettrey Hunser, Robert Wagner, Dane Wynter, Hope Lange, (237099). 5.05 Meridan News and Weather (8911322). 10.55 Film: Wyatt Earp (31769693). 2.15 The Jerry Springer Show (7010649). 2.55 Box Office America (1554823). 3.20 World Footbell (80443200). 3.50 CD UK (4099303), 4.45 Soundtrax (83817823). 5.05 (TV Nightscreen (7900397). WESTCOUNTRY

WES I COUNTRY
As LWT except: 12.30 Movies,
Games and Videos (81148). 1.05
Westcountry News (57965982). 1.45 The
Making of a Bug's Life (25011273). 2.30
Film: Man About the House. TV shootn Pain: Man About the Mouse. 1V shorth spin-off, more feeble than most. With Hichard O'Sulivan, Paule Wilcox, Yootha Joyce. (775099), 3.50 sea:Quest DSV (7462902), 5.05 Westcountry News (8911322). 10.55 Film: Wyatt Earp (31799693). 2.15 The Jerry Springer Show (7010649). 2.55 Box Office America (1554823). 3.20 World Football (80443200), **3.50** CD LIK (4099303), **4.45** Soundtrax (83817823), **5.05** TTV

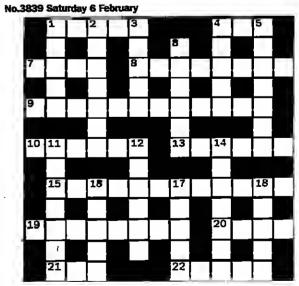
Nightscreen (7900397). YORKSHIRE As LWT except: 12.30 Dinosaurs (81148). 1.05 Celender News Headines (57965982). 5.05 Celender News (5507677). 5.10 Goels Extra (2644099). TYNE TEES

As Yorkshire except: 1.05 North East News and Weather (57985982). 5.05 North East News and Weather (5507877). 5.10 Full Time (2644099).

S4C As Channel 4 except: 105 Firm: Nurse on Wheels'. Juliet Mils cycles Nurse on Wheels*, Juliet Mils cycles round the village dispensing good cheer in sickly cornedy. With Ronald Lewis, Joan Sims, Reymond Hurtley, Athene Seyler. (47772525). 2.40 Channel 4 Racing from Sandown Park (4044758). 3.45 Rygbi: Pencampwrieath y Purn Gwlad 1999 (72690070). 6.10 Y Cloc (64212148). 7.45 Newyddion a Chwaraeon (98485070). 8.00 Mardi Gras (6661065). 9.00 O Flaen Dy Lygaid (83931591). 10.00 Film: Force 10 from Newsrone. A squad of US Rangers is sent to blow up a bridge separating the

Navarone. A square or Us hangers is sent to blow up a bridge separating the Germans from Yugoslav partisans. Big beings and a collapsing dam are the order of the day, not to mention dialogue like "This place is crawling with Krauts." The only real resemblance to the original film is the use of the word Navarone in the state. Connect Book (Metilon) and David is the use of the word Navarone in the title. Gregory Peck (Mallory) and Devid Niven (Miller) are here replaced by Robert Shaw and Edward Fox. The Americans are represented by Harrison Ford. The German's speak in turnry English accents. (1318436). 4.00 4 Later. Pop-Up Video (50178007). 4.30 Hill Street Blues (14828839). 5.15 Close.

CONCISE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

Restaurant guest (5) Witnessed (3) Piece of news (4) Grow less (8)

Politician (12) 10 Populatioo count (6) 13 Goawing animal (6) 15 Specialist food store (12)

19 Private (8) 20 Genuine (4)

21 Group (3) 22 Portion (5)

DOWN Same agaio (5) Retribution (7) Horseman (5) Biblical mountain (5) Type of film (7) Damage (b) Everlasting (7) 12 Duellist's assistant (6) Merit (7) 16 Hungarian composer (5) 17 Flower (5) 18 Dodge (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Rice, 4 Miles (Wry smiles), 9 Llama, 10 Theatre, 11 Machismo. 12 Load, 13 Inland Revenue, 17 Mime, 18 Shanghai, 21 Curious, 22 Skill, 25 Yarris, 24 Note, DOWN: 2 Isaac, 3 Evasion, 4 Metamorphosis, 5 Lied, 6 Sit down, 7 Alumni, 8 Mend, 14 Lamprey, 15 Venison, 16 Edible, 17 Mock, 19 Hoist, 20



father is a Glaswegian crack dealer. Boyz will be boyz.

The script also seems mercifully eware thet this is an area in which everything has been heard before. In the audition scene, familiar from The Fubulous Baker Boys and elsewhere, Nigel the manager finds lots of footling things wrong with one exceptional applicant. The documentary maker gets to the nub by asking him if it's a problem that the boy is

E00 80.8

30

Kies Me Kete. Kate (Caroline Quentin) wrestles with her word-processor in this unusually articulate British sitcom (R) (S) (T) (275867).

45 News; Weether (T) (670273). Watch of the Dey, Desmand Lynam Introduces lightights of Aston Villa vs Blackburn Rovers, Plus, a comprehensive round-up of the reat of the Premiership action (5) (T) (5768341).

11.50 EILM Best Defense (Willard Huyck 1984 UK). Schlzophreric 'comedy" in which a defence-industry designer (Dudley Moore) struggies to perfect a vital component in a new tank. Then, two years latar in Kuwait (what foreeight), lieutenant Eddle Murphy atruggles to control the tank which is malfunctioning thanks to that very component. How did this ever get made? (T) (135273).

1.58 1.20 Top of the Pope (S) (T) (8870945). Joins BBC News 24 (81944823). To

MATCHES OF THE DAY

A night dedicated to stories from the Big Apple. Take a peek behind the doors of the Chelsea Hotel, see the glamour and excess of the NYC clubscene in 'Party Monster' and glimpse the vibrancy of New York life in a series of short films - NYC Postcards. Other highlights include the highly acclaimed film Stonewall and Leonard

Tonight from 6.00pm

WALES (4pm BBC1) England are missing from the opening day of this year's ITIve Nations Championship (the last — as next year Italy will make up a sextet) — but that is mere fixture coincidence rather than anything to do with the recent fraces over television payments. BBC1 has a double-bill of matches, beginning at Lansdowne Road with Ireland's game against last-year's grand slammers, France. The Irish are fancied by some, olthough their coach, Warren Gatland (right), says "We've set

ARENA

<u>30</u>

BBC1

7.00 The Munaters (R) (T) (8367235). 7.25 News; Weather (3467039). 7.30 The Incredible Hulk (R) (T) (1477439). 7.50 Hero Turties – the Next Mutation (S) (7877475). 5.15 The New Adventures of Superman (R) (S) (T) (1064983). 9.00 Live and Kicking (S) (63554506)

12:10 Newsj Weether (T) (8718419).

(5) (8708480). 12.20 Football Focus (8883902). 12.40 Racing from Uttoweter (38028070). 12.55 Football Focus (38018893). 1.10 Racing from Uttoweter (34458167). 1.25 Rugby Union (84431490). 1.40 Racing from Uttoweter (18831051). 2.00 Pililia Rugby Union: Live coverage of Ireland ve France from Lansdowne Road (kick-otf at 2.15pm). See Metches of the Day, below (T). (882728). 3.55 Football Hall-Times (8481438). 4.00 Pililia Rugby Union: Live coverage of Scotland vs Wales from Murrayfield. See Metches of the Day, below (T) (3457). 5.00 Classified Football Results (5513438). 5.05 Rugby Union (6767032).

172

Score (311341).

6.20 Regional News and Weather (90288)

7.40 The Netionel Lottery Draw. Together at leat - Meetical and Dale Winton (8) (1) (634490).

Sumburn. More soft-hitting drama with the Cyprus travel reps. Julie's perents arrive unexpectedly, while Leura looks after a couple who heve won a luxury holiday after appearing on a talevision quiz show (S) (1) (369166).

9.00 Hinixi The Dirty Dozen (Robert Aldrich 1867 US).
Lee Marvin trains up death-row prisoners for a suicide

y made this ly black-listed director it of Ross and her In Butch

1.00 IIII Lonaly Are the Brave (David Milar 1962 US).
Terrific Dalton Trumbo-scripted modern-day western, with outlaw Kirk Douglas pursued by a very up-to-date posse of cars and halicopters (438485). To 250am. 2.20 The Jerry S 3.00 Box Offil Football (8737) Nightscrean (5

DOCUMENTARY OF TH

BBC2

12.05

5.15 Bikling. Hazel Irvine Introduces oov World Albins Bikling championships, I downhill. With enalysis from Graheim commentary from Julian Tutt, Matt C Beil (no relation) (S) (848898).

B.00 What the Pepere Say, Alleon Pearson surveys the week's newspapers (5) (312051).

5.10 The Cold Wer. "MAD 1980-72" curveye the era of mutual assured destruction, America's nuclear policy in the 1980s, which was famously satirised in Dr. Sitangelove. This was when cirategic arms limitation treaties started hitting the agenda (S) (T) (952344).

10.86 IIIII Wy

Springar Show (R) (S) (T) (7000262). fice America (R) (71668). 3.30 World 78). 4.00 CD UK (S) (2419991). 4.50 ITV (5532484). 5.30 News (39533). To 8am.

5.20 Open University: The Art of the Restorer (T) (1960436). 5.45 The Ceisbrated Cyfarthia Band (T) (2210/86). 7.10 Cinema for the Eara (T) (6389457). 7.35 Weyeng Golek - Puppstesre of West Java (T) (6142/88). 5.00 Westend 24 (S) (45709). 9.00 Personal Passions (402/877). 5.45 Open Salurday (9/81099). 10.35 Cybsr Art (3896693). 10.40 See Haart (9567/86). 11.25 Turning Pointa (8633506). 11.35 Food and Drink (6437273).

IIIM Anime! Farm (John Halas, Joy Batchelor 1954 UK). Britah's first feature-length enimelion was this rether flat version of George Orwal's allegorical classic. Maurice Denham provided most of the voices (6023644).

FIRM Innovant Moves (Sieven Zallien 1893 US). Real-life junior chees champion Max Pomerano surprisingly axoels as a young lad who is found to be a chees genius. Joe Maniegns, Joen Allen and Ben Kingeley co-star in Schindler's Lief scriptwriter Steven Zallien's directorial debut (S) (T) (86460761).

Sitestre Britein (S) (T) (8149883), **3:10** One Man and His Dog (S) (T) (3550457), **3:40** Space 1988 (S) (T) (2615709), **4:30** TOTP 2 (S) (2464577),

Weather; Lottery Result (667902)

(T) (31769693). nilvened by the arrival of d the beautiful nuine aptitude

2.30 IIII 4 Later: She Freek (Byron Mabe 1987 US). Chiller from the "Exploitica" season about a waitress who joins a travelling fair (T) (31823).

4,00

5.20 Breaking ti doves disapp and do Houd brings us nes

C.30 Doy(*T.Tyy T feath of certing wing, an eace wing seals won stratisacies wo Obviously you (B) (T) (10868 Thie at Home! Davine-McCall and more figg to ~ a tartifying walk on a piene's cape from a helicopter cookpit, a man office, end a man who must get out of a while danding over the Hoover dam, office not going to try that one at home This at Home!

7.10 Blind Date.
Cayman islan
World? Backy,
go by. Total in
rasult (S) (T) How did Rachel end Shaun fere in the obe and Mark and Samanthe in Walt Disney if If most of these dates are anything to idifference would be the most aurprising (942438).

(a) (7) (42805f).

8.55. [3][M] Force Ten from Neva 1917 Force Ten from Neverone (Guy Hamilton 1978 UK). The public's enthusiasm for Alisteir MacLean adaptations, really atimulated by Where Eagles Dare, was pretty much at an end by the time of Hamilton's flabby, incredibly belated sequal to the 1961 The Guns of Neverone. Robert Shaw, in his penultimate film, leads the survivors of that gun-spiking adventure to deal with

11.15 5ex and the City (R) (T) (425380). 11.45 Sex and the City (R) (T) (434831). 12.20 NME Premier Live Shows (6120571). 12.50 4 Later: Exploitica – Carnival of Horrors (T) (5707842). 1.20 4 Later: Tune (R) (4700113).

4 Later: Pop-Up Video (3984089), 4,25 Hill Street Blues (R) (2436686), 5.15 Pearl (7997823), B.40 The Adventures of Hyperman (7918200), To 6,16am.

Carlton

Channel 4

9.25 BMTY Live. Britney Speare and Next of Kin ara the guests (S) (34137438). 8.00 QMTV (99 61998).

11.30 CD UK (S) (69070). 12.30 The Food Factory (81148). 1.00 ITN News; Weather (T) (13509371). 1.06 London Today (T) (57965982). 1.10 On the Ball (T) (9168438).

7.00 T4: Bush Talee (R) (3484902). 7.05 A Box Full of Stories (R) (S) (8375070). 7.20 Animal Alphabet (R) (3435490). 7.30 Pippi Longstocking (S) (T) (86490). B.00 T4: Transworld Sport (R) (30877). 9.00 Morning Line (S) (77187). 10.00 Inside Rugby with Thisrry Lacroix (95902). 11.00 Gazzetta Football Italia (R) (T) (82488). 12.00 Board Stupid Goes Skiling (54506). 12.30 High 5 (R) (2861683).

1.45 IIIM The Crackeman (Petar Graham Scott 1863 UK). Charile Dreke was given generous screen time in this comedy caper in which Drake's guilible locksmith is repetedly exploited by crocks. With George Sanders, Darrils Prica and Nyree Dawn Porter (13516612).

1.05 ITM Nurse on Wheela (Gsrald Thomas 1963 UK).
Although it had same production team and some of the same cast, there's not the alightest whilf of Camy Onatyle antica here, inetaed, it's a gentle rementic cornedy with naw nurse Juliet Miles trying to win over the locale. Horaid Lewis, Joan Sims, Joan Hickson and Jim Dale co-star (17599490).

3.50 Eerly Edition (R) (S) (7462802). 4.45 ITN News; Sports Rssuits; Weather (T) (7607419). 5.05 London Tonight (T) (8811322).

the Megician's Code 3. How to make pear at will, shoot arrows through a woman, din'is famous water-torture trick. Which sally to... (T) (6779877). **B**.05 2.40 Chennel 4 Racing from Bendown Perk. Brough Scott Introduces the 3.05, 3.35, 4:0 and 4.40pm races (90.460588).

Brookside Omnibue. That Mersey grief in full.
Joey's attempt to salvage the silver fund could prove fatal, while Nikki gets a flashback of the rapist's face (R) (S) (T) (5484419).

6.55 BIDING Jacqueline ou Pré - Playing with Fire.
A profile of the complex and controversial cello genius.
See Documentary of the Day, below (T) (9/4728). 6.30 Channel 4 News, Weether (90434).

7.25 The Spying Germe. This weak, in this thoroughly antertaining history of (mainly Cold War) explonags, a look at assessins (S) (T) (776780).

Park code-breakers – and the knotty problem of how the Allies could sot on information received from intercepted derman messages without revealing that they had broken the codes. Hence British defenders on Crete knew about the German personate investor in advance, but were ordered not to act on the knowledge (R) (T) (854065).

12.40 [IIIM] Losing Cheee (Kevin Bacon 1996 US).
Dapressed housewife Helen Mirren fats in love with
home-halp Beau Bridges in Kevin Bacon's well-regarded directorial disbut (R) (S) (9060213).

TELEVISION GUIDE BY GURARD GILBERT



JACQUELINE DU PREI PLAYING WITH FI C4, dg/h) You might not think there is much else written about cellist Jacqueline du Pré arnid the articles and angry exchanges stirred up by the cond Jackte. However, this documentary (being to transmission) promises a "balanced view" ac Channel 4. Du Pré's siblings, Hilary and Piers, speaking to director Mandy Chang, as will Hilar and Yehudi Manuhin. For those who cen't get en and Yehudi Manuhin.

FILM OF THE DAY

THE OIRTY OOZEN (Spm BBC2, right) Okay, here's a trivia question. How many of the "Dirty Dozen" can you name? Get past John Cassavetes, Telly Savalss, Charles Bronson and Donald Sutherland and you'll be doing wet!. Robart Aldrich's nitillistic and violent 1967 fantasy shout a group of murderers, rapists and thieves who are given a chance to reprieve themselves on a suicide mission into Occupied France, set a level of cynicism which Hollywood gleefully followed in the ensuing decade. There's a fair amount to enjoy here, however, Jowed in the y here, however, the US Army



hannel 5

THE WEEKEND REVIEW
The Independent 6 February 1999

B.00 Deppiedown Farm (R) (9/6/235). 5.30 Havake zoo (R) (8827/86). 7.00 5 News and Sport (S) (6/38631). 7.30 Milkshakel (S) (6/48065). 7.38 Wirnzle's House (R) (3390457). B.00 Lassle (R) (S) (4/66631). B.30 Wishbone (R) (S) (4/65602). 9.00 Land of the Lost (R) (4/56254). 9.30 Kablami (R) (S) (9/18446). 10.00 Loggerheads (R) (8/16/438). 10.30 The Wonder Yeara (4/52/438). 11.00 The Pepsi Chart (R) (S) (T) (2/93/506). 11.30 Footy Shorts (4/24/2949). 11.45 Beverly Hils, 90210 (R) (S) (T) (1/5/869). 1.45 Bang Lberty (S) (8/96/18902). 1.30 RAD (7/9904865). 1.45 Roobarb (R) (1/5/74506). 1.50 5 News (S) (T) (1/5/98099).

2.00 Sportsweek on 5. Gail McKanna introduces highlights of the Super Bowl in Mami. Plus, Ice-hockey action and Argentinian ecocer (S) (1994902).

Sunset Reach Omnibus. Hallucination-Inducing US daytime soap. Vanessa is told sine is pregnant. Cue hand-to-mouth close-up (R) (S) (T) (88114231).

5.55 5 News end Sport (S) (T) (2177380).

6,00 Hero

Mercules: The Legendary Journeys. Our half-man, half-body sculpture battiss s. deadly eerpent and faces other dangers to eave lolaus from being executed for a robbery committed by Autolycus, the king of thieves, Don't even begin to try and make sense of it (F) (S) (3706065).

e.65 Night Fever. Suggs and more karaoke mayhern with assorted soap stars, minor TV presenters and has-beens. This week, Katle Puckrik, Gall Portar, Junior Simpson, Dean Gaffney and Timmy Materi. Lenny Beigs, David Soul and Clock provide the music (S) (9694983). 7.45 6 News and Sport (S) (T) (6285438).

0.05 Xenas Warrior Princess. Our warrior-dominatrix forces an end to the Minoan-Thessallan war and usea her medical knowledge to save numerous casualties, including Gabriefs. Atta girl (S) (4342644).

9.00 IIII Hip cired: Flight 285 (Charles Correll 1886 US). Mid-er hostage thrifer (absolutely not based on real events, for a changs). It eters Anthony Michael Hall as a murderer being escorted to prison by plane, who decides to hijack the craft end demand a ransom. Ally Sheedy is a passenger and James Brolin is in the cockpit (S)

10.50 [alim] Wes Craven's Mind Ripper (Loe Geyton 1995 US). Don't get too excited — Wes Craven only co-executive produced the run-of-the-mill homor about e project to create a superhuman which goes wrong (47283709).

2.25 IIIM Celculated Risk (Norman Herrison 1983 UK).
Crime B-movie about robbers who set off a bomb dating back to WWII while tunnelling into e bank (24650755).



Can this a really revive Rover? MOTORING, PAGE 12



Rotters in the loyal family

There are a lot of loyalty cards out there. But which offer the best value for you? By Paul Slade

oyalty has become a muchabused concept in the financial world. Usually all it means nowadays is that you take out a firm's credit card and stay loyal to it. Meanwhile, it screws you into the ground with excessively high charges. But every now and then a little flower blooms among the weeds and a credit card crops up which offers a marginally better deal to long-suffering cardholders.

Two providers have recently entered the fray, offering cards which give the cardholder money or other benefits back for every £1 that

One of the new issuers, Bradford & Bingley, offers the best reward scheme of any nationally available plastic card, according to new research that has been carried out by Staffordshire University.

The survey looked at the cash value of loyalty points given by rival card suppliers. Bradford & Bingley topped the table with an award of £4 for every £100 spent. The stinglest card of the 20 rated is TSB's Trustcard, which gives its users as little as 20p for every

Professor Steve Worthington conducted the survey on behalf of Vauxhall, whose own GM Card came second. Professor Worthington points out that the TSB card has been in issue

since 1978 and says it is now "showing its age". He suggests that people who clear their card balance in full every month - and therefore pay no interest - should pick the card with the best loyalty scheme. For all other users. it is the interest rate charged on uncleared debts - the APR - which is most important.

"If you can afford to be a full payer, then the usage incentives are an extra bonus," Professor Worthington says. "But if you're taking revolving credit, then I think you should concentrate on the APR."

These annualised percentage rates show the rate of interest you would be paying if you borrowed a given sum on your card for a full year. These rates are supposed to make it easier to shop around and compare different card suppliers. However, contrasting one APR with another is actually far from a straightforward exercise.

Barclaycard, for example, has a tiered APR structure which charges you more interest the less you spend and which may vary from one month to the next. If you were to borrow £299



The best card for you will depend on your individual spending patterns

WHY IT	SOMETI	MES	PAYS TO	BE LOYAL	L - THE TO	P CARDS
Name of card, data issued, cardholder figs	Payment type, sthere accepted, till outlots	Annual fee	Rest race of vaccin on inchesy spent, %	Actual accentary value for £3,000 spect	Example of remard based on £3,000 spect	Actual monetary value for £10,000 spent
Bradford # Blagley** 1995 NVA	Credit Visa/MasterCard 580,000 outlets	None	46	£120	£120 cash back on completion of a new mortgage	E400
The GM Card 1994 600,000	Credit Visa/MasterCard 580.000 outlets	None	3%	£90	Vandas	£300
British Airways Diners Club 1996, N/A	Charge Card Diners Club 180,000 outlets	ទាវ	2 27%-2.64%	268*	Timo adules and two children into Alcon Towers	£264°
Forte Card . 1998 N/A	Credit . MasterCard 580,000 outlets	£12	1.65%-2.5%	£75	One night's accommodation in Positiouse, Leeds	E165
The same	Defile				CCC all Terror	

in February, for example, you would pay interest at an APR of 21.4 per cent. But up your spending to £500 in March and your APR falls to just 17.4 per cent. It is the amount you spend each month that counts here, not the size of your accumulated balance.

Janice Allen, of the National Consumer Council, warns that using cards with a loyalty scheme can lead to a flood of extra junk mail. She says: "Loyalty cards are more valuable to the issuer than to the consumer. They're giving vital information about your spending patterns to the retailer or the bank, which will allow them to target you with other offers."

Another trick to look out for is the introductory offer. Anyone opting for a new Birmingham Midshires Visa card would pay interest at a comparatively modest APR of just 10.9 per cent for the first six months. But as soon as that six months is up, cardholders are in for a shock as the APR then all but doubles overnight to 19,9 per cent.

Professor Worthington says: "After a certain time period, the teaser rate vanishes, and you're back up to the full rate of APR. It makes comparisons of APRs even more difficult because nearly everyone has got a teaser rate

The Vauxhall survey also looks at nonpayment cards. These are the cards which, rather than paying for your shopping, simply record electronically the loyalty points you have earned. Professor Worthington found the best card at Boots - which gives you £4 for every £100 spent - and the worst at Tesco, where your non-payment Clubcard earns you just £1 per £100 spent.

But using payment and non-payment cards together lets card users pull one trick of their own, thanks to a process called dou-"What many sharp people do is use one of each type of card, and therefore get two lots of points at one time. For example, if you were in a Shell garage you could use your non-payment Shell loyalty card, but pay with, say, a Goldfish card. You would get two lots of points on one transaction."

Worthington's research shows that the Shell card earns you points worth up to £1.30 per £100 spent, while the Goldfish card nets you another £1 per £100 spent. A bill of £100. double-dipped in the way Professor Worthington suggests, could therefore earn you total points worth as much as £2.30.

BARGAIN HUNTER



Property of the week

SIX MILES from the Suffolk coast and four miles from the railway station at Wickham Market, this twobedroom traditional brick-built cottage in Station Road, Blaxhall ,would make the perfect weekend retreat. If it weren't for a few structural problems, it would cost a lot more than £74,000. Overlooking fields, it has two double bedrooms, large kitchen, downstairs bathroom and living room with stairs to the first floor. It sits on a generous plot of 80ft by 100ft, with garden and fruit rees. Details from Clarke & Simpson (01728 724200).

Car of the week Negotiate to accumulate

REPORTS THAT BMW dealers have more Z3s than they know what to do with seem to have been exaggerated. Fiji and Orinoco special edition Z3s have been flooding the showrooms, with their special paint jobs, air conditioning, electric convertible roofs, leather trim, beated seats and alloy wheels. But, according to BMW dealers, their stock will be quickly sold - they can sell 1.9 roadsters all day long, because it is a cheap BMW. More open to negotiation are the Z3 2.8 versions. Approach an independent like Robert Hughes Management Group (01753 621221), with half a dozen on offer at £30,995, a saving on the £34,000 list price. JAMES RUPPERT

Deal of the week

GO TO the kitchen and put the kettle on. By the time you come back the blighters have dropped the cost of a mortgage even further. When will it all end? Not this week, judging by FirstMortgage's latest offer. The company has launched its cheapest-ever three-year loan, at 3.99 per cent until 31 March 2002. The mortgage is available on a loan-to-value of up to 90 per cent, with no compulsory insurance. Any catches? There is a £395 application fee. But this really is a low-cost loan. One worth going for – until next week.

DSS computer fails to cope with pension pay-outs

Pensioners are losing out - thanks to a bug in the DSS system. By Teresa Hunter

HOW MUCH is your pension worth? You don't know? Neither does the DSS, the agency which is responsible for paying retirement income to millions of kople every week.

Problems at the central DSS computer has resulted in hundreds of thousands of the newly retired not receiving the pensions due to them. The chaos, with its overtone of creaking Orwellian inefficiency, has thrown a spotlight on just how powerful this single piece of technology is, and how it influences so many people's lives. What have been described as

teething problems" with a new 2100m computer has resulted in chaos, leaving one in three pensioners who retired since last April being short-changed on their entitlements. Although in theory the basic

state pension could be hit, be-

cause almost everyone retiring

from full-time employment receives the full state pension ; †vadays, the system has namely copied with this sum. However, its technical wizardry completely floundered when the lime came to calculate the additional State Earnings Related Pension top-up

short-changed by many pounds are among those losing out. a week for nearly a year, and it will take more time still to re-

solve the problem. Many widows have failed to receive their due widows pensions, and anyone involved in a divorce will also have found their pensions affairs in a muddle. But it is not only the retired who have been hit.

National Insurance rebates into private pensions have all but collapsed, which means that these investments missed out on last year's strong stock market performance.

But most worrying of all is the difficulty in establishing whether you have received the a one-off payment of £10.

How to stay one step ahead

Always keep all records

Insurance contributions -

one day you may find that

Ask the DSS to explain

relating to pay and National

of the state:

you need them.

throughout their working lives. correct pensions and other Some people have been benefits due, or whether you benefits due, or whether you

Independent actuary Bryn Davis said: "The calculations involved in working out your pension rights are not very difficult. The big problem is getting hold of the records. The DSS computer is the

only agency holding records about your earnings and National Insurance contributions going back over the years. We are all utterly dependent on it. And it doesn't work."

In a less-than-magnanimous gesture, Alistair Darling, the Social Security Secretary, announced this week that everyone affected will be compensated by

FILE AS YOU EARN

how your pension benefit

has been calculated.

• If you are unhappy,

independent actuary to

check the DSS's sums. He

may only levy a small fee,

but it will be worth it to get

consider paying an

your pension right.

The computer problems suffered by so many underline the wisdom of keeping and filing old pay-slips, particularly P60s which record your pay, tax and National Insurance in any given year Only with this evidence can you challenge the Department of Social Security over bow much they pay you in retirement by way of Serps.

However, if you have saved these documents and you can use a calculator, you can work out the sums - although this can be both confusing and complicated. It is probably more practical to contact your local DSS office and ask staff there to explain how they have reached the calculation they are paying you - supplying them

Ask your pension

provider for a statement

detailing exactly what

has been paid into your

Ask your wages office to

calculate what the rebate

should have been. They can

plan in the past year.

easily do the sum.

Similarly, anyone who has expected Serps rebates to be paid into their private plan should contact their pension provider and ask them for a statement - except your insurer will be unable to tell you whether the DSS refunds have

with the information you have.

related rebates which were year 1997-1998, and should have been paid into your pension during the 1998/1999 tax year.

The computer couldn't handle the calculation and these payments have not been made. In this case, the Government is promising to pay 0.5 per cent for each month of delay, amounting to 6 per cent over a year. But many people saving towards their pensions will find this inadequate given that, despite the uncertainties of the past year, the FTSE 100 share index rose by 18 per cent last year.

A spokesman for Scottish Mutual said: "The first port of call has to be your pension provider, but he won't be able to tell you for sure whether an adequate rebate has been paid, because we don't know how much you earned.

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(Serps), which many people

have been contributing towards

Financial makeover Ionathan Davis

2 Shopping Motoring

10-11 Property

Hot spot: Kennington 14

'Revolutionary' pension alert

ARE WE at the threshold of yet another "pensions revolution"? I ask because some commentators have suggested that this week's Treasury proposals for a new "pooled investment vehicle" involves precisely that.

Maybe I'm missing something here, but it doesn't seem like it to me.

What the Government seems to be proposing is that unit and investment trust companies, who have found it difficult to package products under a pension wrapper, will be able to do so more easily from now on.

A new tax-free wrapper, offering the same benefits as a traditional personal pension, will be applicable to occupational schemes, the proposed stakeholder pensions, even personal pensions. The quid pro quo for companies planning to use this wrapper is that their products must be cheap, with level charges and low or no entry and exit charges.

It is easy to foresee the effect of such changes. Life insurance companies have been kicked in the teeth. Their own products have been judged to be inflexible and far too expensive for investors. To that extent, what the Government has done is a sensible move. But it is debatable whether it really is as new as all that.

Unit and investment trust firms have always offered their products in pension form. However, independent advisers have tended not to recommend them, largely because of the low upfront commissioo they paid. Many companies have also offered recurring single premium contributions", where you can pay regular monthly premiums - but without heavy charges. Again, most advisers "forget" to tell their clients about this option, for the same reason as before.

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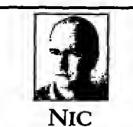
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Will this change now that unit and investment trusts can be marketed more



CICUTTI

The Treasury's new tax-free pension wrapper is a sensible move, but hardly new

easily? To the extent that many advisers' clients are taking on board what this newspaper has argued for years, namely that charges are a critical aspect of any

pension, it will have some

effect, though not quickly. The Treasury's liberalisation of its pensions wrappers is also positive: some will benefit from the wider investment choice. This, however, brings other problems. Is it sensible for savers to take out unit truststyle pensions investing in,

for example, Latin America? Proper advice is critical. Yet Ministers appear to be pinning their hopes on product "transparency" as a way of ensuring they are properly sold. Big mistake; I can see another pensions scandal looming here.

Another question mark hangs over the extent of this flexibility. This new vehicle is intended to enable people to move from employer to employer with it.

Assuming employers will allow you to do that. And that they will pay the same contribution into your pension vehicle as their own. There's no sign that they will be forced to.

While useful, these proposals don't constitute a revolution. We're still waiting for New Labour to deliver on that one and L for one, am not holding my breath.

Money without tears

FINANCIAL MAKEOVER

NAME: PETER LORD AGE: 48 OCCUPATION: SELF-EMPROYED COMPUTER CONSULTANT

eter is divorced and nas a 17-year-old son who lives with his mother nearby. His income is variable but averages approximately £50,000 per annum.

His home has no outstanding mortgage. Peter has managed to save and build up capital in various huilding-society accounts. The majority is held in the Cheltenham and Gloucester Instant Transfer Account, which pays a competitive interest rate with instant access.

Some of the remaining accounts were opened to benefit from carpethagging. In addition to this, Peter has a Tessa with Birmingham Midshires; this account has been earmarked for a future project.

He also has £2,500 invested in National Savings Premium bonds, but returns have been disappointing. His only investment into equities is 167 shares in Eurotunnel, his reason

being that he was born in Folkestone. In the past, Peter's experience in investment has been disastrous. In 1983 he bought 14 Krugerrands at about £290 each, and eventually sold them 10 years later for about the same price. In August 1988 he purchased a share in a flat for £15,000 and subsequently sold it in August

1991 for £8,000, a loss of some £7,000. Peter wants to improve on the returns be is currently receiving from his building society, and to maximise his future retirement income.

The adviser

Bryan Bull is an associate director with the Aitchison and Colegrave Group, independent financial advisers, Suite One, Berkeley House, 15 Hay Hill, Mayfair, London W1X 7LG (0171-499 0990).

The advice

Peter opened a regular contribution personal pension contract in 1984 with Sun Alliance, now Royal and Sun Alliance, investing in the traditional with-profits fund. In 1987 he invested a single contribution of £2,000. These contracts are the old-style "retirement annuity contracts" and have a guaranteed fund value at normal retirement age of 65 and also a guaranteed annuity rate.

With current annuity rates at an all-time low and interest rates looking as though they will fall further, this is a valuable option.

The existing pension contract should be maintained at its current funding level (£450 per month) in order to take advantage of the valuable guaranteed future fund values and the guaranteed annuity rates

(210.93p per annum per £1,000).
Additional single premiums should be made annually to take advantage of personal pension legislation allowing higher contributions to be made. At Peter'a age, 48, up to 25 per cent of net relevant earnings can be paid in, as opposed to 17.5 per cent under his existing retirement annuity contracts. This will offer Peter the opportunity to diversify his investment and offer greater flexibility in the future.

I recommend a single contribution of £7,000 gross to the Scottish Equitable Personal Pension contract selecting the Global fun, which invests in a wide range of world-wide equities, predominately in the UK and Europe. As Peter is a higher-rate taxpayer this will reduce his tax bill by £2,800. He could also utilise carry back/carry forward provisions for underpaid contributions in previous years, further cutting his tax bill.

Peter's Tessa was set up three years ago with Birmingham Midshires Building Society, making maximum contributions, and these should be maintained until maturity.

With regard to Peter's building society deposits, many should be maintained in order not to prejudice any potential windfalls. However, interest rates continue to fall, and we have already seen bank base rates fall from 7.25 per cent to 6 per cent per anmm over the course of the last few months. Accounts with societies that are not likely to demutualise should be closed and the proceeds reinvested.

Peter has indicated that he would be prepared to invest a proportion of his capital into asset-backed investments adopting a balanced attitude to risk. He is also interested in an exposure to Europe.

As Peter has no other equity investments (apart from Eurotunnel) my recommendation would be to invest £6,000 into a unit trust personal equity plan with Jupiter. The money should be split equally, placing £3,000 in the Income fund and a further



Peter Lord wants to make sure he retires in the lifestyle he is accustomed to

£3,000 in the European fund. The Jupiter fund invests in a wide range of UK equities and since its launch in 1987 has achieved consistent first-quartile ranking, which means that it has always been

within the top quarter of funds in its sector. The European fund invests in a wide range of equities from the European community, and has also managed to achieve consistent firstquartile ranking.

As personal equity plans will be replaced by Individual Savings Plans (ISAs) on 6 April 1999, Peter should consider a further investment of up to £7,000 in three months' time, to achieve greater diversification.

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tears

Always count the costs

Don't just look at returns on your investment, check the costs, too - you could be shocked



JONATHAN DAVIS

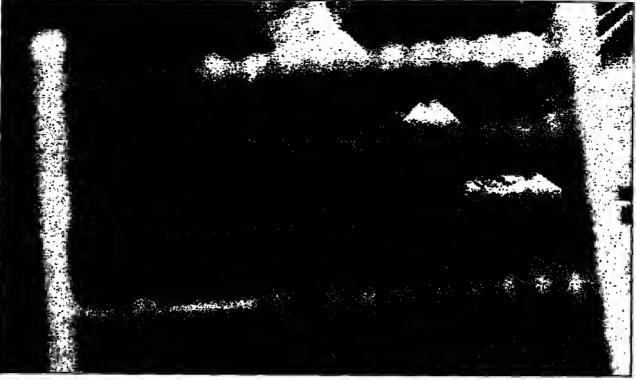
The longer you hold your fund, the bigger impact costs can make

ike many investors, it has taken me longer than it should bave done to arrive at the realisation that costs are such a major ingredient of long-term investment performance. Particularly with shares, it is

easy to spend too much time looking at the return side of the equation and not enough at the cost element. Whether you are investing directly yourself. or through a fund, the message is the same. Costs can seriously damage your wealth.

Of course in a bull market, like the one we have enjoyed for many years now, many investors have been able to ignore costs because the overall performance of their investments has been so good. If you are making 15 per cent a year taxfree through a PEP why bother whether you are paying I per cent, 2 per cent or 3 per cent to the company which is looking after your money? Many fund managers have grown fat on the back of their investors' seeming indifference to costs.

Now that inflation and interest rates have fallen so sharply, however, nominal returns from all types of investment must come down too. With inflation at, say, 2 per cent, and a long term real return on equities of around 6-7 the fund is. But that figure is not funds for the last five years, has per cent. even if you are still a the end of the story. There are recently published the first edi-



Careful calculations are needed to work out the best deals

in nominal terms.

With that kind of return, it obviously starts to make a lot more difference whether the cost of your equity unit trust, for example, is 1 per cent or 3 per cent per annum. There is no point in giving back a third of your potential annual return unless you are absolutely convinced that your fund manager can make up the difference in superior performance. In practice, a 3 per cent a year cost burden is an awful handicap for even a brilliant equity fund manager to make up - and 2 per cent a year is almost as stiff a burdle to overcome.

But bow do you find out what the cost of your managed funds are? The answer is: you can't. Fund managers will happily tell you what their annual management fee for running long term bull of the equity mar- a whole range of other costs tion of what it hopes will be reg-

ket, only the foolish will count items (such as audit, custody, on shares producing long term and administration costs) returns much above 9 per cent which the fund management which the fund management company will deduct from any money you invest with them.

These costs can be highly significant, and can add anything from 10 per cent to 50 per cent to the annual cost of your fund. In the United States, total expense ratios (or TERs) for mutual funds are widely collected and publicised. But in this country, the amazing thing is that, although the unit trust business is now more than 60 years old, as far as is known nobody has ever thought it worthwhile to collect and analyse total expense ratios.

Now, at last, someone is trying to provide commercially what you would have thought would already be an essential service to investors. A consultancy firm called Fitzrovia International, which has been compiling TERs for offshore

THE COST OF LOOKING AFTER YOUR MONEY invested 30,000 60,000 90,000 120,000 150,000 Accumulated Value of 38,121 94,371 177,356 299,770 480,333 Fund. £ Value "At Risk" through higher fees, £ As % of 1,271 6,002 16,969 38.723 18.603 Fund Value 9.57 12,92 A5 % of 18,85 32.27 invested

ular quarterly surveys of TERs seas are generally more exfor UK-based funds. While the study is aimed at professionals, and priced above the average investor, the firm hopes to publish a retail version in due

ource: Independent/Fitzrovia International Limited

course, which will be welcome. Having seen the first report in the series, I can say that it makes very interesting reading. Some of the findings are as you would expect: index funds are generally cheaper than actively managed funds (by nearly 0.5 per cent per annum on averpensive those which confine their investment to the UK. But what emerges very

clearly from the consultants' detective work is the buge difference there is between the costs charged by different providers, much of which appears to be unjustified by performance. For UK equity funds, for example, even eliminating one or two obvious non-profit outliers. TERs range from 0.45 per cent perannum to 3.67 per cent per age), Funds that invest over- annum. In fact, quite a large

number of well-known fund managers are routinely charg-

ing their clients more than twice the average fees of their competitors. This disparity may be only a reflection of a fund manager's exceptional record or marketing skill. There is no law which says that the most successful fund managers (such as Jupiter and Perpetual) should are limited to certain not be allowed to profit from residential areas. Call

But, as usual in these cases it is the many indifferent fund managers in the middle of the pack who seem to be getting away with more than they should if the market were genuinely competitive, and consumers more aware of the costs they are paying. Banks and insurance companies generally come out worse than specialist fund managers.

their skill in having compiled a

good track record.

Tha key message is that the longer you intend to hold your fund, the bigger an impact costs make to its performance. The table below, for example, shows the difference it can make if you put £5,000 a year into a UK tax-free equity fund with a low TER (0.85 per cent) compared to one with one of the highest (2 per cent plus), Assume a 9 per cent growth rate (see above), run the numbers and what you find is really quite frightening.

Over 10 years, the burden of these additional costs will cut the value of your fund by £5,000, assuming identical performance in all other respects.

That equates to 6 per cent of your fund and 10 per cent of the total amount you have invested at that point. Over 25 years, the amount you will have "lost" through higher charges is £65,000 - the burden of extra costs has eaten up £1 of every £6 your fund by then should be worth, and over half your total investment has gone in paying these costs!

If the high-cost fund were a racehorse, nobody would think of racing it with such a handicap in place - but then this is fund management where different rules seem to apply.

LOOSE CHANGE

no penalty for early retirement and the right to THE NORWICH & Peterborough Building buy the best value annuity Society is launching a new from any provider Five savings account, Share funds are available, from Saver 3, which offers a choice of tiered interest rates which can be UK to global equities. Charges are 5 per cent on each initial investment, variable or fixed. Variable plus a monthly fee of 0.5rates range from 4.25 per 1.25 per cent and a further cent gross on deposits up £24 annual administration to £2,499 to 6.25 per cent charge. Details from IFAs. gross on sums above £100,000. Fixed rates start WEST BROMWICH at 4 per cent gross, rising Building Society is launching RAPID, a fastto 5.5 per cent on deposits above £100,000. Accounts

track mortgage service which it claims can give a firm offer within five days on the society's entire home loan range Applicants need a P60 publishing a 37-page guide to the top 50 PEPs, and their latest pay slip, mortgage statement (where possible) and covering the outlook for world stockmarkets, as bank statement. Call 0121 6072442 for details. well as how the new tax credit system will work. Copies are available by

FIDELITY INVESTMENTS is launching a free Guide to Income following research showing that a third of savers are worried about the effect of falling interest rates on the income they receive from their money. The company has also launched a new free contributions holidays high-yield corporate bond PEP with a projected annual yield of 7.5 per cent. Call 0800 414171.

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On-line successes which point the way

LEGEND HAS it that one wealthy Wall Street trader realised that it was time to get out of shares and into cash ahead of the crash of 1929 when his shoe-shine boy started offering him share tips.

Now I have never be one to weave any kind of mystique around the stockmarket. Indeed, most of those working at the cutting edge of the Square Mile are little more than exceedingly well-paid bookies' runners.

But - and it is an exceedingly large but - when the central hanker of the world's largest economy, the head of the world's largest media empire, and the boss of the world's biggest software firm, Alan Greenspan, Rupert Murdoch and Bill Gates respectively, all start singing from the same hymn book, we should pay attention.

You are probably aware that what they have all been saying is that prices of Internet stocks are delying gravity but have little chance of continuing to do so.

They are, in a word, overvalued. Leaving aside all the hype, who is actually responsible for the way the share price of the likes of bookseller Amazon.com has behaved? Mostly, it is a phenomenon caused by so-called "day traders" in the US. These "day traders" are not Wall Street whiz kids - they are ordinary punters but with a difference.

You or I may invest in the stockmarket for the medium or long term. To these people, long term means a day. They may trade in and out of Internet stocks several times in a day thanks to their immediate access to the market as a result of the development of direct electronic trading through the Internet brokerages such as E-trade and Charles Schwab.



INTERNET INVESTOR ROBIN AMLÔT

The price volatility this turnover engenders is exacerbated by the limited number of shares in issue; only just over a third of Amazon.com's shares are actually on the market.

that all Internet stocks come with a serious wealth warning. Trading to take advantage of the potential capital gains in a share price always ends in tragedy. The last bubble market like this occurred in shares in Japan in the 1980s, where the stockmarket is currently around a third of the level at which it peaked. The Japanese government has now resorted to handing out free shopping coupons in a bid to boost the economy. Buying and selling your shares via the Internet is not an excuse to check your commonsense at the door on the way in.

All you need to remember is

In fact, on the way in is the best place for a reality check. If you surf the Net through a basic ISP, then why not have one of the personal finance sites such as Moneyworld as your home page! Alternatively, if your entry point is a more complex portal such as

finance content on its pages. Now, Freeserve, Dixons' new ISP, has announced plans to launch a personal finance channel. It aims to provide personal investment information, allowing you to check the value of your shares and unit trusts and look up background information on

AOL, check out the personal

Dixons intends to expand service in the summer to include on-line share dealing, while the Freeserve finance channel will contain investment information provided by the US group MicroCap Financial Services. Since launching in September, Freeserve has attracted a million subscribers of which, Dixons says, 827,000 are active users.

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LOOSE CHANGE

HOLDEN MEEHAN, the independent financial advice firm, has published a new and substantially updated edition of its guide to green and ethical investments. The 40-page guide comments on the latest development in the market, including "dark", "medium" and "light" green investments, ethical banking, plus key questions for potential investors to consider and offers a self-diagnostic profile section at the end. Free copies are available

by calling 0800 7314505. NORTHERN ROCK is launching a new mortgage package which combines a home loan with a personal one. The offer allows borrowers to use the money for nonmortgage repayment purposes. Loans are secured against the property. Rates start at 6.49 per cent and are guaranteed to remain at 0.5 per cent below Northern Rock's standard variable rate for the duration of the loan period. Call 0845 6006050 for details.

STANDARD LIFE Investments is cutting annual management charges on Global Advantage, its activelymanaged fund, from 1.5 per cent to 1 per cent. The reduction will apply both to new investors and to its existing 82,000 customers. The cut allows Global Advantage, Standard Life's biggest fund, to obtain a Governmentbacked CAT mark, the benchmark given to funds offering fair terms, low costs and easy access. More details are available from any independent financial adviser.

WITH INTEREST rates coming down fast, it is sometimes more expensive to take out a shorter-term fix in case one is left with a higher rate by the end of the fixed-term period. Manchester Building

Society is launching a two-year fix, pegged at 4.49 per cent until March 2001. There is an arrangement fee of £395 applying on minimum loans of £50,000. Call

NORWICH UNION is cutting the initial charge on its European Equity Fund PEP from 5 per cent to 3 per cent, until Monday 5 April. Contact an independent financial adviser for more details.

FIRST ACTIVE, the telephone-based mortgage lender and savings account provider, is launching a range of new eurodenominated offshore accounts, based in Guernsey. They include instant access, 30-day and 60-day notice accounts. Call 01491 710400 for details of interest rates.

FIRST MORTGAGE, the telephone-based home loan company, is launching its cheapest ever three-year fixed rate mortgage, pegged at 3.99 per cent until 31 March 2002. The loan requires a £395 application fee and is available on loans-to-value up to 90 per cent. There are no compulsory insurances. Call 0800 080088 for more details.

SUN BANK, the banking arm of Sun Life of Canada, the insurers, is guaranteeing the rates on its variable Tessas until 5 April. Variable rate Tessas currently pay 6.75 per cent. Call 01438 744656.

SG ASSET Management is launching a PEPqualifying UK Income unit trust, with a yield marginally above those available in equity markets. It aims to boost income by improving growth. Initial charges are 5.25 per cent, with annual management fees of L5 per cent, taken from capital. Call 0800 1007426.

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All rates are shown gross and are subject to charge without notice.

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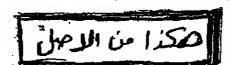
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The name is bond – corporate bond

PLUMMETING INTEREST rates put a smile on the face of anyone with a variable rate mortgage. But if you want an income from your investments, the news could not be worse. Returns on building society and bank deposits are shrinking, with rates on many long-term investments faring no better.

Market was

"The fact is that yields are falling on everything, whether it's postal accounts or gilts," says Andrew Jones of independent financial advisers The David Aaron Partnership.

Corporate bonds are basically IOUs issued by companies. People who buy corporate bonds are lending to a husiness which pays them a fixed rate of interest, and usually promises to repay the capital back on a fixed date. They are like gilts, or UK Government bonds, but carry more risk, because the government is considered more creditworthy than most companies. So corpo-

High-yield corporate bonds could be a way to beat falling interest rates. By Rachel Fixsen rate bonds pay more interest than

deposits, gilts or other more solid fixed-rate investments. Once issued, the capital value of

any bond fluctuates, depending on the financial health of the issuer and prevailing interest rates. This gives funds holding the bonds some scope for capital growth. Corporate bond funds take the

form of either unit trusts or openended investment companies (OEICs). Like equity-based funds, they can be held tax-free in Personal Equity Plans (PEPs). But from this April, corporate bond funds will have an advantage over share funds.

The 20 per cent tax credit which PEP investors can reclaim on their share dividends will be cut to 10 per cent after 5 April, and disappear altogether five years later. But cor-

"A lot of big players in the corpo-rate bond market have focused on high-yield bond funds - that is a relatively new feature of the corporate bond fund market," says Jason Hollands of brokers Best Investment. "We are seeing more demand for in-come, and investors have been cau-

volatility," he says.

Fund managers Perpetual,
Schroders, and Fidelity have all recently launched higher yielding corporate bond funds in the retail market, following the success story of M&G. M&G started its high-yield

corporate bond fund last September.

marketing it alongside its existing corporate bond fund. The high-yield

tious about equities because of the

porate bonds will not be affected as an income is paid as interest rather than dividends.

PEP has a redemption yield of 7.8 to D for default. A bond from an issuer with a rating above BBB- is considered investment grade, but below

In order to achieve that M&G holds most of the fund's assets in what are known as sub-investment

Investing in a fund that holds corporate bonds is less risky

grade bonds - infamously known in the Eighties as junk bonds. Ratings agency Standard &

Poor's assesses the creditworthiness of a whole host of bond issuers. The ratings go from AAA+, for the most financially solid concern, right down

sidered investment grade, but below this, sub-investment grade.

"This is where the incidence or likelihood of default increases markedly," says Tony Assender of S&P A number of well-established companies issue sub-investment grade bonds, including IPC Maga-

zines, Orange Telecom and BSkyB. Investing in sub-investment grade bonds individually would be very risky, but investing in a fund holding them is much less so. The risk is spread, and fund managers believe the effectiveness of their research cuts the risk still further

But the corporate bond market in the UK is still very small compared to the equities market, and this the high-yield end of the market.

"We were able to pick up some real bargains, and we have a portfolio that not everyone will be able to get," says Tessa Murray of M&G. For example, the fund invested early on in bonds issued by betting shop business William Hill, which has subsequently been floated on the stock market.

Andrew Jones describes corporate bond funds as the first step away from deposits in terms of risk. But that risk should not be ignored, particularly with high-yield funds.

Because of the increased risk, M&G says its high-yield fund should not be seen simply as a corporate bond fund with a high yield. "We look at it as we would an equity fund," could limit the scope for funds. says Ms Murray. Investors should

than an income-producing fund.

Andrew Jones and Jason Hollands recommend Fidelity in the high-risk corporate bond fund market, because of its vast investment research resources - important when assessing the prospects for

sub-investment grade bonds. Of the mainstream corporate bond funds, Mr Jones suggests Aberdeen Prolific and the well established CGU Monthly Income Plus. Mr Hollands prefers Legal & General for its low charging structure.

Best Investment Brokers, 0171 321 0100; The David Aaron Partnership, 01908 281544 (corporate bond PEP guide; available £2 to cover p&p); M&G, 0800 390 390 (M&G offers a guide to fixed interest investment); Aberdeen Prolific, 0345 886666; Legal & General, 0500 116622; CGU, 0845

When you have to change with the times

As retirement looms, investment needs change. By Abigail Montrose

FOUR YEARS ago, Jean Hind decided to go part time in the run-up to her retirement. She now works three days a week at her local library and plans to retire fully next vear. Jean's lifetime habit of saving has made it possible for her to look forward to a comfortable retirement.

"I realised four years ago that I had built up a good enough pension and investment portfolio to enable me to cut down on my hours at work," she says. "My pension will be sufficient to cover everyday expenses, hut it is the income from my investments that will pay for luxuries such as holidays abroad and my golf club membership."

In order to be in this position, Jean's investment strategy needed to change. Over the years she had saved money in a building society and invested for growth in unit trust funds and investment trust shares. However, she needed to look at investments which would offer her a good income

n retirement, says her independent fin-

icial adviser Rory Thomson, a director James & George Collie in Aberdeen. Jean had a diverse portfolio, but we deed to reduce the risk and transfer into ly from equity investments into low-risk porate bond income PEPs and low-risk h-profits bonds. As Jean is still workpart time we have not needed to take income from these investments, but

en she retires we will he ex-The hulk of Jean's investnt portfolio had been in ree growth unit trusts: rpetual UK Growth. hroders UK Enterprise and hroders European. Jean had t used her PEP allowance in the st, so Rory could not simply transthe cash from one PEP fund into an-

Instead, he has sold units in the trusts ch year and invested this money in corrate bond PEPs. In the last four years, an has transferred £12,000 into the CU mthly Income PEP and £12,000 into the G Corporate Bond PEP. These funds er an annual yield of 6 to 6.5 per cent. The rest of the money from the original it trusts has been invested in Com-

ercial Union's with-profits bond and ottish Widow's with-profits bond. These nds are paying annual bonuses of beeen 6 and 6.5 per cent.



When you stop earning a wage, you'll have to rely on investment income

"The original growth investments proced the risk and moved over to investments that provide tax-free income of about 6 per cent, and there is the potential for capital growth," says Rory.

On top of this, Jean still has £8,000 in a building-society account and a fully funded Tessa. She has also kept her investment trust shares, which should pro-

vide some growth; she hopes to move these into an individual savings account after Jean is lucky enough to

be able to switch to low-risk investments to provide her with enough money to supplement her income. But those requiring less income or greater capital growth than she is likely to achieve may want to stick to

The first thing to do when moving from growth funds into income funds is to work out exactly how much income you need. The more income you need, the less op-

portunity there is for capital growth. A unit trust fund in the UK equity growth sector will yield 1 to 3 per cent a year, but there is potential for capital growth - whereas a fund in the UK equity

cent. If you have invested through a PEP, duced next to no income because all the this income will be tax free and there is still earnings were reinvested. In the last four the opportunity for capital growth to ensure a growing

If you need more income than this, a UK equity and bond income fund may be a better option, and often the income is paid out monthly. These funds invest in fixedinterest bonds as well as equities, so the income levels may be higher, but there is less potential for capital growth.

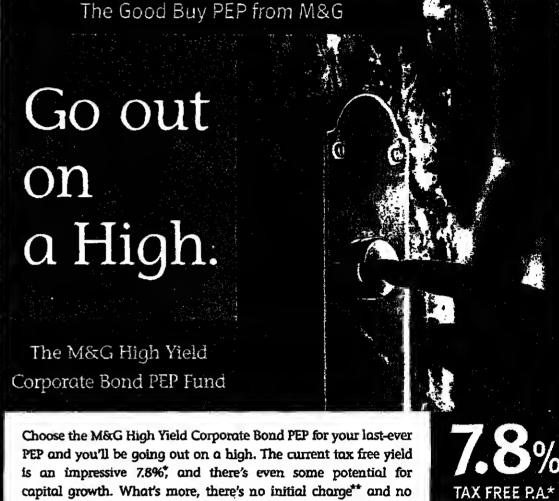
Alternatively, investors may want to move into a UK fixed-interest fund, whereby all your money is invested in fixedinterest assets such as corporate bonds. Income may be paid monthly or quarterly. The typical yield is 5 to 7 per cent.

For more income, you could invest in the income shares of a split-capital investment trust. The income on these shares can yield up to 9 or 10 per cent. These funds offer higher yields than other funds because the income shareholders make up only a percentage of the total number of shareholders in the fund, but receive all its income.

Before you decide to switch from a growth fund to an income fund, it is worth double-checking exactly what type of fund you are in, as it is not unusual for growth investors to invest in income funds.

If it turns out that this is what you have been doing, all you need do is to start drawing out the income from the fund rather income unit trust sector will yield 3 to 5 per than reinvesting that income for growth.

stribution gross income relavested and redemption yield 7.8% per comum as at 11.12.98. Estimated yields will vary and up to date figures quest at the number below. "The dealing spread was 0.88% as at 11.12.98. The M&G High Yield Corporate Bond Fund is managed by M&G spilated by the Personal investment Authority and IsMO). M&G do not offer investment advice or make any recommendations about investments, posterior and services of the M&G manketing group. The tax regime of PEPs and ISAs may change, and the value of the tax benefits adviction circumstances of the investor. The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up, you may not get back as much used by M&G Financial Services Limited (regulated by the Personal Investment Authority). M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 157.



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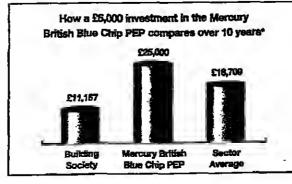
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Don't be dazzled by the gold rush

Corporate bonds aren't the answer for everyone - especially if you want long-term capital growth. By Tony Lyons

corporate bonds, whether mistake. While they certainly offer a high and reasonably risk-free level of income distribution, the prospects are that this will be unlikely to progressively rise over time. Nor is the investment likely to show much in the way of capital growth.

"If you want to maximise your income, then choose corporate bonds," says Jason Hollands of BEST Investment, "but if you want a mixture of a rising income and capital growth, then there is still a strong case for buying income funds that invest in good quality equities."

The yield from low-risk corporate bond funds is now around 6 to 8 per cent. But it is important to realise that the investment is in a fixedinterest fund that usually has a stream," says Colin Morton, fund

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ovestors rushing to buy government gilt-edged stock. While these loans are traded, their value in a personal equity plan or is usually determined by the quality not, could be making a big of the company that issues them and the fixed income they distribute.

If a company issues loan stock that it will repay in full in 2025 with a coupon of 7 per cent, then it will continue to pay holders £7 for every £100 they invest until the date the loan is paid back. So the prospects of any capital growth is minimal even if the loan stock can be traded.

This is unlike equities, where the value of a company's shares depends on a number of factors, the most important being its future prospects. The better a company's profits, the more it is likely to pay shareholders an income in the form of dividends. The better its prospects, the more the demand for its shares, and the higher they will rise.

"Our aim is a growing income



portfolio of various types of corpo-rate loans and, maybe, some Equity Income Trust, one of the best Don't let fund managers pull the wool over your eyes

performers in its sector. "We participate directly in the success of the British economy, and if we invest successfully, as we bave, then income for investors will grow."

You will not immediately get a high return from an income fund. Today, these are yielding in the main between 3.5 and 5 per cent, before tax. If they are in a PEP wrapper, the income will be tax-free but only until 5 April, the end of this financial year. This is thanks to last year's Budget.

Up until now, PEP managers ration tax, the tax a company pays on the dividends it distributes, on behalf of their investors. After 5 April, and for the next five years, they will only be able to reclaim half. After April 2004, they will not be able to reclaim any ACT

This means that if you received £125 in dividends from your PEP, of in value by the rate of inflation. which £25 was reclaimed ACT, and assuming no increase in the cash income from a fund, then assuming

£100 after 2004. Corporate bonds, however, will still pay out tax-free income as they do not invest in shares.

But of course, income-fund managers are looking for growth in both dividends and capital. "We invest between 70 and 80 per cent of the fund in blue-chip stocks such as Glaxo, BP and BT, all of which are in the FTSE 100 index," says Colin Morton. "These have the stated aim of increasing dividends paid out to shareholders. As well as being could reclaim the advanced corpo-extremely well managed, they are extremely liquid, which means that

> we can always trade in them." The income-fund managers hope to increase the income paid to investors by more than the rate of inflation. This is unlike the income from a corporate bood which is fixed, and will therefore be reduced

If you oeed to supplement your

pay-out, the amount will drop to £111 that they have grown in value, you in the coming financial year, and to can always each in some of your units. "If you hold the units in a PEP then you won't have to pay capitalgains tax," says Kim North of Pretty Financial, a London-based independent financial adviser. "If they are held direct, then you need to have made over £6,800 in capital gains in the year before any tax is payable." Less than 7,000 investors

> gains tax last year. "If you can afford to take a lower income, with the prospects of it rising in the future and of capital gains, then you should look to equity income funds," says Paul Penny, of Financial Discount Direct. "You can supplement income from the growth in the value of the units, and this should outstrip the rate of inflation

in the London area paid any capital-

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The return of the original investment and any income received depends on financial instruments bought from major financial institutions. In the unlikely event of any counterparties being unable to meet their obligations, the PEP may not be able to achieve the full return of capital or payment of income. Tax assumptions are subject to naturally change and the value to an investor of the tax advantages of a PEP will depend on personal circumstances. If this fine that value of the PT-SE 100 Index is lower than the initial value, your original investment will be reduced by the same number of percentage points, e.g. if final value is 3% lower than initial value, capital return will be 97% of original investment. In a bank or building society account, your capital is secure and readily accessible. "PEP transfers subject to £5,000 minimum. Issued by Scottish Widows investment Management Limited. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO.

A fund of knowledge

It pays dividends if you can spot a top

income producer. By Nic Cicutti

come-producing funds can in- which does not seem like much, volve investors in complicated But Peter Edwards at Premier calculations as to who has de- makes the point that, to ensure livered outstanding perfor- a decent income, the primary mance on a regular basis.

Premier Unit Trust Brokers. a Bristol-based firm of financial own research into the subject. by comparing the difference between the dividends which funds were paying five years ago and the amount they paid last year.

The survey shows that the top 12 funds in its list have delivered average dividend paid to investors. growth of 74 per cent over this period. This compares with inflation, which grew by 16 per cent in the same five years.

In the top 12 for that period, which has been broken down nto discrete one-vear periods tannia UK General, Jupiter Income, River & Mercantile 1st Blue Chip, Britannia Higher dividend yield on equity in-Yield, Fidelity Income Plus, come funds is acceptable." Newton Higher Income, Hill Samuel Income & Growth and Guardian Income

The average dividend yield 1QW (0117 927 9806)

TRYING TO find the best in- for these funds is 3.34 per cent. focus of any fund must be excellent capital growth. The aim is to increase the value of the advisers, has carried out its fund to the point that the increase in income is a product of the rapid expansion in the value of the overall investment.

Over the same period, the 12 achieved total returns (including both dividend and capital growth) of 85 per cent, increasing the income stream

"Accrued profits within the value of a fund provide a potential supplement to conventional dividend payment as and when required," Mr Edwards adds.

many noiders of income for greater accuracy, are: BWD funds 'milk out' spending UK Equity Income, Laurence money from time to time, tax Keen Income and Growth, Bri-free within the current capital gains tax allowances," he continues. "This facility is the rea-Income Aberdeen Prolific UK son why the modest initial

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By Tony Lyons

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Whom can I trust with my hard-earned cash?

With 600 options, it can be hard to find the best investment. By Tony Lyons

IF YOU are after a high income and want to do so through a collective investment, either in a PEP or through a direct holding, you are faced with a bewildering choice.

There are now some 600 different unit trusts, open-ended investment companies or investment trusts, whose funds range from corporate bonds, UK income growth, international high income funds and split income trusts. To take the pain out of choosing, here is what some expert independent financial advisers have to recommend.

If it's corporate bonds you are interested in, Jason Hollands of the London-based BESt Investment, recommends that you look at mainstream funds. "There are a number being launched investing in subinvestment grade loan stocks," he says, "but investors who need a reliable source of income should stick with the other funds that put their money in top quality bonds."

As charges are one of the main determinants of variation in performance, he advises to look at the Legal & General corporate bond that has no initial charge and an annual charge of just 0.5 per cent. Among equity funds, he particu-

larly likes Newton Income and BWD Equity Income. "Both give a reasonable yield and have shown good capital growth over the years. Elsewhere in London, Kim North

of Pretty Financial, points potential corporate bond investors at M&G Corporate High Yield, which was the first into the market with a fund that will look at higher-yielding loan stock offered by non-blue chip companies, the so-called junk bonds.

"In the past, the team managing the fund has got a good reputation for getting its investments right," says North, "and there's no reason now to think that they will start to pick up a lot of stock in companies that will default on their loans."

Among the fixed interest funds, she likes Aberdeen Fixed Interest, currently yielding around 7 per cent. "Among equity funds," she says, "you could consider the income funds from Jupiter, Perpetual, Premier and Royal SunAlliance. My overall favourite, however, is M&G High Yield, especially if it's to be put in a tax-efficient PEP wrapper'

In Shrewsbury, Philipa Gee, of Gee & Co, picks Newton Higher Income as her choice of equity funds: "This £175m fund, which has part of its portfolio in preference shares and corporate bonds, is picked for its overall total returns, both income and growth. The group takes a collegiate view, so performance is not dependent on one fund manager. It picks out mainly blue-chip companies that will produce sustained

dividend growth, From Yorkshire, Graham Bates, of Bates Investment Services, recommends an investment in Save &

Prosper's Equity Income. Like many income funds, it concentrates on blue-chip stocks - "The right place to be in the current state of the market," he says. "It's a steady, consistent performer that currently yields around 3.6 per cent." Ailsa Brown, of RAD Young, in

Glasgow, advises a look at the £160m Henderson Preference & Bond fund, currently yielding around 6.5 per cent even if "its performance has been a bit off the boil during the last 12 months". This is because preference shares have been a bit of a drag. But looking at two-year performance, the fund is sixth in the fixed-interest sector, fifth over three years and second over five years. All this time, it has had the same fund manager, according to Brown.

When it comes to corporate bonds, she recommends CGU Monthly Income Plus, presently yielding around 6.8 per cent. "It has very low volatility, meaning that it



A smooth line in sales patter is not the only consideration

shows a consistent performance, and while you expect it to show little growth, it has still increased by nearly 60 per cent over five years.

Also in Glasgow, David Thomson, of Aitchison & Colegrave, Scotland's largest firm of independent financial advisers, likes Britannia High Yield: "It has produced consistently good

results and has an enviable longterm record, placing it in the top 10 per cent of high income funds."

"Its success is due to strong team performance, with sector specialists responsible for stock selection in their areas of expertise. This means the fund is aggressively managed, making extensive use of fixed

interest and convertible instruments, enabling it to huy some lower-yielding growth stocks and sectors.

In Bristol, Roddy Kohn, of Kohn Cougar, advises risk-averse readers to look at M&G's conventional corporate bond. "It has a tried and tested management team, who don't invest in the riskier end of the market such as preference shares, and it is consistently in the top quarter of sector performance tables."

Among equity funds, he particularly likes City of London investment trust, which has produced a consistently rising income as well as good capital growth in asset values, and Johnson Fry Income, another consistent performer.

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PEPs: the last chance

You will have to move fast - but help is literally at hand

THERE ARE barely two months left before personal equity plans, or PEPs, are phased out.

After 12 years of being a mainstay of anyone seeking to shelter investments from tax, they are to be replaced on April 6 by Individual Savings Accounts, another tax-free wrapper but with slightly different rules (it will still be possible to hold a PEP, of course, but they will no longer be on sale).

chance to take advantage of a scheme offering significant benefits to . anyone happy to put their money away for five years or longer. Before April, it is

So this is the last

possible to shelter up to £9,000 in a PEP (£6,000 in a general PEP and £3,000 in a single-company version). Couples can put away double that amount.

There is no shortage of funds prepared to accept this money. Most are expecting floods of cash in the next few weeks. The big question for any

investor, of course, is which fund to choose, Get it right and your last PEP can deliver thousands of pounds of tax-free growth in the next decade. Get it wrong and you won't have to worry about capital gains liabilities - because your fund won't have earned enough to be subject to them.

This is why The

Independent has produced a "Guide to Last-Minute PEPs", written by Nic Cicutti, the paper's personal finance editor. It discusses whether PEP investments might suit your needs and what the tax benefits are - and aren't - as well as answering the most common questions about PEPs: how and where to buy them, what to look out for and what to bear in

mind when buying one.
If you are considering a last-minute PEP, this guide, sponsored by Scottish Widows Fund Management, is for you. Call 0345 5678910 for your free copy.

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Income Unit Trusts - % Growth over 5 years

Split capital investment trusts are not for the unwary. By Abigail Montrose

Splitting images

trusts are not the easiest investments to understand, but if you need above average income and are worried thout falling interest rates, they are worth considering.

For those who need a high income anywhere up to 12 per cent or nore) and are prepared to forego apital growth, these funds can be deal, says Doug Kennedy, director it Globe Independent Financial Adisers, in Twickenham, Middlesex

"You can get a higher income rom the income shares of a split apital investment trust than you an from an annuity or most buildng society accounts. But the level of income depends on the perforof capital you are prepared to sac-"ifice," he says.

Split capital investment trusts are ept they issue more than one class of share. When they were first inroduced in the Sixties they offered ust two classes of shares - income and capital shares. The income shareholders received all the divilends from the fund, while capital shareholders received the growth in he fund when it was wound up.

Since then, these trusts have become more sophisticated and many 10w issue several types of shares see box for details).

None of the shares offer a guaranteed return and the ability of the and to meet its objectives will depend on how well it performs. So before investing you should look

losely at the fund as a whole. If you plan to buy income shares is 8.74 per cent after charges. which aim to return your capital in full when the trust is wound up, you should look at the "hurdle rate" and hurdle rate tells you how much the fund has to grow each year to be able to meet its liabilities -a high or "positive" hurdle rate means the fund has to grow a lot to achieve this. The has published a free guide to split Loser the fund is to its wind-up date,

plit capital investment the more important it is that is has a low hurdle rate as there is not much time left for the assets in the fund to grow.

The cover tells you if the value of. the underlying assets in the fund is sufficient to cover the liabilities. High cover, such as two times cover. means the fund has assets worth double the amount needed to meet

As with all investment trusts, the shares are traded on the stockmarket so their price is determined by demand and supply rather than the value of the assets in the fund.

Mr Kennedy currently favours the income shares in the Guinness Flight geared income and growth. fund. The yield on the fund is 9 per cent. The shares are trading at nance of the fund and the amount around 108p, but when the fund is wound up in 2006 you will only get back a maximum of 100p per share, and that is providing the fund grows ust like other investment trusts ex- 3 per cent in the meantime. Taking into account the 8 per cent drop in value by wind-up, the real yield is about 7.66 per cent.

He also likes the ordinary income shares in the Fleming Income and Capital investment trust. The fund has three years to run and has a hurdle rate of 1 per cent, which means for income shareholders to get back their capital the fund has to grow by 1 per cent.

Those wanting advice should speak to an independent financial adviser, or they could consider the Exeter High Income Trust. This is a unit trust which invests in a range of split capital investment trust shares and other high yielding shares. The current yield on the fund

The fund is run by Chris Giles. "We spread your risk by investing in a range of investments, and you get 'cover" on the trust. Put simply, the a specialist choosing the best income shares for you," he says.

> The Association of Investment Trust Companies (0171-431 5222) capital investment trusts



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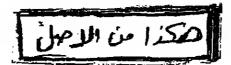
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Let your property work for you

Why buy a house that you never intend to move into? To rent it out to gain a regular source of income, just as millions of others do. By Simon Read

raig Storey and Alison Godson have just splashed out £76,000 on a two-bedroom house in Cheltenham. But they don't plan to move in after they've finished renovating it in March - they hope to find a tenant "We had saved up quite a bit in a

deposit account and thought it would be a good idea to invest it in property," says Alison, "We hope that the rental income will mean it pays for itself, and eventually grows so that we can pay off the mortgage, re-tire early and live off the income." The couple renovated their own house eight years ago and were keen to work on another property. By investing their savings in it, they're hoping to build up a decent nest egg without taking any of the risks as-sociated with the stock market.

'We advise clients that they must be prepared to invest for up to 10 years and ride out any storms'

Using property as a way to create a regular income has become big business. Around two million households rent private accommodation, and that figure is growing. The rise is encouraging more people to shy away from increasingly volatile stock market investments and pick an investment which pays a reg-user income – through rent – as well as offering long term growth, through the rising property market.

This has taken off in the last two years or so because of an initiative from the Association of Residential Letting Agents (Arla), which has around 1,250 members throughout the UK who are professional letting and property management agents.

It set up its Buy-to-Let initiative n September 1996 to encourage growth in the private rented sector. The aim of the initiative was to en-

able to private investor landlords.
"In the past two years we have honed the attractions and opportunities of this form of property investment," says Andrew Reeves, the Aria National Council member responsible for the Buy-to-Let scheme. "Buy-to-Let gives the investor a solid investment to walk past, and a hedge that can be seen

and touched." Clydesdale Bank became the eighth member to join. The other seven are Capital Home Loans, First Active, Halifax Mortgage Services, Mortgage Express, NatWest Mortgage Services, Paragon Mortgages and Woolwich Direct. They each offer a range of Buy-To-Let loan schemes, including fixed and capped rates, that aim to be as comprehensive and competitive as the range of loans available for normal home ownership.

There are a number of lenders offering Buy-to-Let mortgages outside the Arla scheme, including the Alliance & Leicester, Bank of Scotland, Chelsea, and Yorkshire Bank. UCB Home Loans, for instance, launched its Second Property Mortgage at the end of last year, offering a two-year fixed rate of 6.99 per cent. With a minimum loan of £25,000 and maximum £250,000, the loan is aimed at customers buying a second, or third, property for rental purposes, and includes a 1 per cent cashback.

Alison and Craig took out their second mortgage through the Chelsea Building Society, which required the couple to have a 20 per cent deposit, and charged them 0.25 per cent above standard variable rates. "We recognised that currently buying a second home to let out is a very attractive prospect," says Darren Stevens of the Chelsea. Independent financial advisers

have mixed views about buy-to-let as an investment. For starters, they warn that property prices will not always increase, "We always advise clients that they must be prepared to invest for up to 10 years and ride out any storms," says Mark Howard of Maddison Monetary Management, a firm of independent finan-

There can also be problems with



More and more investors are putting their money into property to let, to get a regular income from rent and a solid capital investment

to be prepared for non-payment of rent, solicitor's letters, and finally eviction," says Mr Howard.

Damage to property is a further worry for prospective landlords. "They must be prepared to spend a lot of money when a tenant leaves in order to bring it up to scratch once more, and held deposits do not always cover the expense.

borrowings this can be a good longterm investment area, especially compared with the returns offered by many deposit-based investments," he points out. But be warns: "People who need to mortgage heavily are in a far worse position, as they need to be collecting some heavy rent in order to make a profit on a

monthly basis."

on the property of 75-80 per cent, and are prepared to advance between £15,000 and up to £500,000, although First Active is unique in offering up to £1m per property. The length of loan varies between five and 30 years, although Halifax Mortgage Services and Mortgage Express

are prepared to lend for 45 years. Confusingly, most lenders oper-

out income multiples. As you'd expect, most take into consideration the expected rental income, but the level of that varies widely. Manchester Building Society, for

instance, lends up to six times the annual rental income. The Bank of Scotland, on the other hand, operates on the basis that it will lend on the standard basis of three times one

or 25 times joint income, less the existing mortgage, plus five times the rental income.

Lenders can be as aggressive in the buy-to-let arena as they are in the general market place. At the time of going to press, it was possible to pick up a 6.74 fixed rate for up to 10 years through the Yorkshire Bank, or a 6.99 capped rate until 2002

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No more 'four-eyes' jibes - glasses are the fashion accessory everyone wants to wear. By Karen Falconer

The eyes have it: if you want to be hip, get some frames

f you want to be trendy, now is the time to be short-sighted. Glasses (yes, it's cooler to be in your face than ponce about with words like face furniture, occhiali, eyewear or even "spectacles") are the latest, must-have accessory.

Once banished from magazine pages, pop icons, from Robbie Williams and the Gallaghers to Annie Lennox and Scary Spice, are flaunting them; magazine shoots are full of them. Next week alone sees the UK launch of collections from Philippe Starck/Alain Mikli, Loaded magazine and French Connection.

Indeed, most fashion designers have already complemented their sunglasses collections with them - Armani, Paul Smith, Dolce & Gabbana, Jill Sander, Calvin Klein, Jean-Paul Gaultier, Katharine Hamnett. You name them, almost without exception they'll be there. And soon the high street brands will surely be following them en masse. These days, glasses have moved on a long way from the associations they once had with greasy haired, acned geeks.

Take the new glasses vocabulary, Out are taunts like "men don't make passes' and "speccy rour-eyes"; in is a new bed-room speak of sex, love and passion. You "love" your glasses, you're "passionate" about the ones you buy, "our glasses make

Clearly the marketeers have moved in on the dowdy, clinical optician's world. They've opened their eyes to the fact that Britain may be a fashion leader, but it's aeons behind its European and US counterparts in the glasses department (the Italians buy six pairs of glasses for every pair sold here). And cutting-edge consumers are already lapping it up (sales of spectacles have grown 62 per cent in five

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'The British have always separated the art and the design of wearing glasses, perhaps because they feel opticians are purely medicinal'

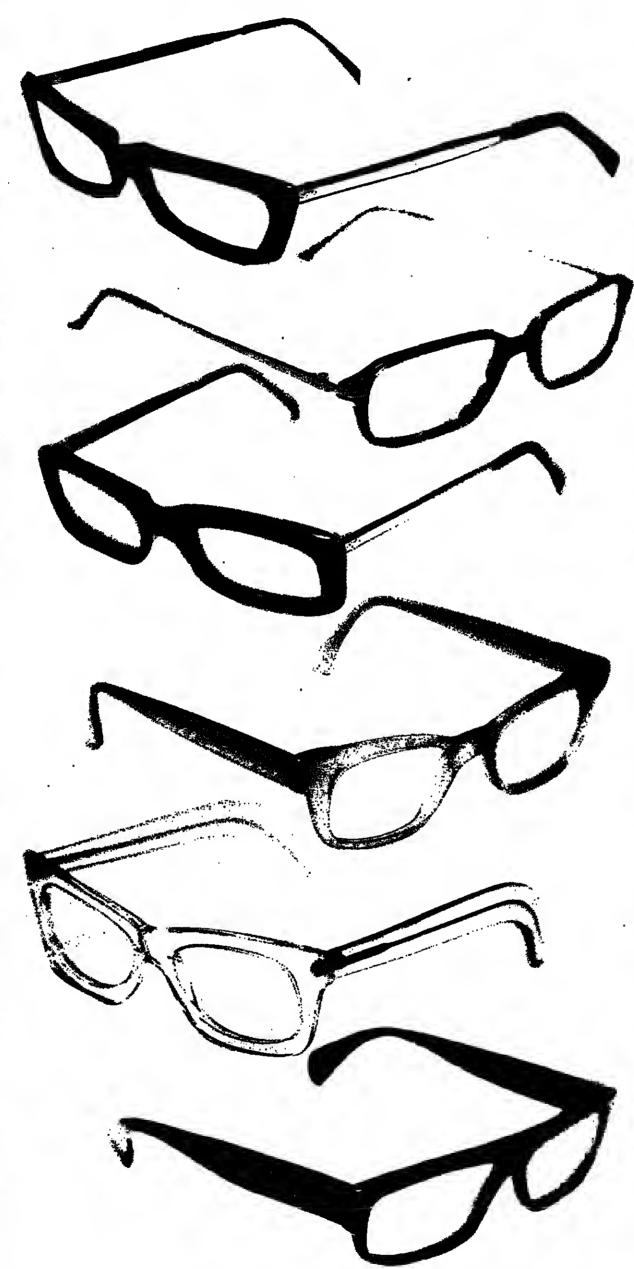
years to over £2bn annually and, as the population ages, stand to show further dramatic increases).

"It's very strange that we've been so far behind in fashion terms," says Jason Kirk of Kirk Originals, whose Covent Garden store is one of the new breed of eyewear retailers, selling themselves as style consultants rather than opticians. For some reason the British have always separated the art and science of wearing glasses. I think it's because of the lingering feeling that opticians are purely medicinal. But now opticians are coming into the market who aren't just sitting around waiting for people to wander in like a dentist's surgery does."

Kirk, the son of a provincial optician, is keener on the artistic side: be sells glasses, has facilities to make lenses, and machines to fit the best specs to your face; but he doesn't do eye tests - you have to arrive with your prescription in hand. In fact, he sells at least one pair a week with plain glass.

He's also fervent about re-dressing the British face, and is one of the leading lights behind London's first eyewear trade exhibition (London International Optics) next weekend which launches with around 100 top optical designers, 30 or 40 of them new to Britain. As Alain Mikli, a leading French eyewear designer and LIO exhibitor, says: "Today it's very interesting to do business in the UK because it's an open market."

Mikli, who set up in France 20 years ago, sells all round the world, but his company only started selling direct to the UK last September. Now. in addition to his own ranges, Mikli is topping the hill with his old friend, iconic furniture designer



old friend, iconic furniture designer
Philippe Starck. And, as well as launching the new Starck/Mikli collection, Staring the new Starck/Mikli collection, Star-

ck Eyes, in this country later in the year, he's also bringing out a collection with Issey Miyake and working with Jill Sander.

"Before, you could have nice clothes and ugly glasses and no one would say any. he says. "Now glasses are as much a statement as the clothes. You have to play with glasses. We play with shoes, with belts, with hairstyles and we have to play with glasses too".

"Everyone else is now doing the retro look - the Fifties and Sixties - but Philippe and I are looking towards tomorrow, to the third millennium. Nothing too fancy, just designed by Starck and Mikli: but very technical and practical, the minimum for

Hard on the heels of the fashion deigners comes French Connection, one of the first high-street brands to step into the glasses market. And its rationale is the same: "Eyewear is a natural extension to the lifestyle we are now selling," says Jill Read, the licensing director, about the new French Connection and lower-priced

FCUK ranges.
"What people have on their face is the most visible thing they are wearing, and they are putting more and more money into high design and high quality instead of the stock frame. The whole world has been doing it, but the British are just getting into it."

The new collection comes in 40 styles including navy, deep reds and pinks, but Read adds a cautionary note: "A high percentage of people will not wear those fashion colours, so we are also stocking classics like tortoiseshell and hlacks,"

It's not just a question of British re-serve, though. Strong colours sit less well on pale faces than on more olive-tinged continental skins. According to Natalie Warren, of celebrity eyewear company Cutler & Gross (clients include Leonardo

'What people have on their face is the most visible thing they're wearing, and they are putting more money into high design and quality'

di Caprio and Elton John), this may be one reason why the Brits have been slow to take risks. "It's easier to wear strong colours if you have darker skins, so we don't experiment with colour."

Stylistically, Cutler & Gross says the mood is swinging away from the boxy, mas-culine look that's dominated recently towards less Fifties'-style plastic (acetate) frames - and, increasingly customers are huying a new pair of specs each season. "We're keeping the frames small and sharp, not Jackie O, because people are more likely to experiment with frames if they are small: they don't feel so conspicuous. We're selling a lot of light tints — pinks, hlues, yellows. Specs to give a look."

If image is all important, are contact lenses heading down a sidetrack? Not so, insists Nish Kotecha of the opticians' chain David Chilow, which has seen a 15 per cent year-on-year rise in sales of glasses. "People are combining the two," he says. "Wearing glasses for work and contact lenses for activities like sport."

The world of fashion is indeed a fickle business. Ten years ago, glasses were seen as a necessity, today they're very definitely an accessory. Yet, whatever the pundits say, what sells well depends on who wears what, and when. For now, at least, the stars' clear focus on glasses will keep them up there in the limelight.

Stockists: Kirk Originals (0171-240 5055); Cutler & Gross (0171-581 2250); David Clulow (0171-486 1485); French Connection (0171 399 7200); Storck Eyes (0171 431 7316) - French Connection and Starck Eyes only available from the end of March. London International Optics (0181 987 7540) is at Olympia, London, 13 to 15 Feb ruary, trade only.

SIX OF THE **BEST**

GLASSES CASES



Flip-top "Authentics" case, £7.95, Optimum, (01332 365 808)



Black case, £10, Cutler & Gross (0171-823 8445)



Blue Aston case, £9.95, The Conran Shop (0171-589 7401)



Flat green leather case. £20, Smythson (0171-629 8558



Red glasses bag, £15. Cutler & Gross (0171-823 8445



Inflatable sunglasses case, £9.95, The Conran Shop (0171-589 7401)

GOOD THING



If you're fed up with grey dismal days wear a pair of Hearts glasses and transform your world. The rose-tinted lenses soften the harshness of the British climate as well as cutting out those harmful UV rays. They are sold by SkyBlue Pink (01280 840689) at a special Valentine's Day price of £20.

Mad Thing



The object of your affections hasn't quite noticed the love light in your eyes, but take beart. Help is at hand in the form of Heart Lights, a three-metre string of 10 heartshaped lights which costs £14.99, from Urchin Mail Order (0800 328 1029). Guaranteed to cast a romantic glow over proceedings.

SHOPTALK

Look no further if unadulterated decadence is the way to your lover's heart and convenience is the way to yours. The leading caviar importer, W G White, has joined forces with the Laurent-Perrier champagne house to create a seductive offer for Valentine's Day.

A bottle of Laurent-Perrier Brut NV champagne, 2 125g tin of fresh, chilled Iranian Sevruga caviar, and a mother of pearl spoon will be delivered to your door for £55 (plus £4.50 for delivery). A saving of £35 on the usual price. All you need to do is call 07000 228 427, and allow 48 hours for delivery.

William George White set up his company in 1895 to bring the very

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best caviar to the UK. Little has changed over the years - caviar is still packed in tins at sea and then transported here in wooden crates

Caviar is traditionally accompanied by ice-cold vodka or chilled champagne, and Laurent-Perrier's light, dry style goes with it particularly well. Caviar should always be scooped from the tin vertically from top to bottom to avoid crushing the eggs, bence the spoon provided. You can eat it off the back of your hand at the junction of the thumb and forefinger, but that's just one suggestion. No doubt you'll think of

chilled but never frozen,

many more.

I WANT TO OWN ... **POCKETABLE GADGETS**

You can take it with you, after all

ot too long ago, blue denim jeans were the epitome of masculinity. The art was squeezing into a pair two inches too small around the waist, after which retrieving a wallet, let alone loose change was near impossible. But what did that matter? Wasn't the whole point of them that we were just about to dig a ditch, or lasso some cows or something?

Now, of course, most of us have wised up and are walking round town in designer Desert Storm wear - combat trousers with enough pockets to hold Iraq's war machine. But what have we got in those huge, stitched-on, ripcord cottoo handbag jubstitutes that have a nasty habit of getting snagged on door handles? Absolutely nothing.
So, for every self-respecting, pre-

millennium, gadget-fixated psycho-tic, here's the checklist of all the things you should slip into your cargo pants before leaving the house

PACKET OF TUNES Name: Rio MP3 Player Price: £199

Stockist: 01189 444 477 Description: It fits in the palm of your hand, has simple buttons and promises tog-free portable music. software as you know it (hence the memo, calendar, clock and alarm. somewhat hazy legality of their use). This music system has no moving parts, just a 32MB memory which stores around 30 minutes worth of music files which you've hot wired from the web using a PC. Unlike its rival, the more sharply iressed MPMan (£300, 07050 607 78), it also has a slot for a flash memory card, meaning you needn't be restricted to the music you've installed on the machine - after all would you ever go on holiday with

Style: *** Anything else worth considering? If music quality is your first priority rather than technological so ob value, theo several mini disc player/recorders outperform both. Kenwood's blue DMC-J7R(BL)

just one cassette?

(£250, 01705 476 000) and Sharp's silver MD-MS722H (£250, 0800 262 958) encapsulate sound and design vision and both come with impressive watch-style LCD remote controls as standard

THE COMMUTER COMMUNICATOR

Name: Alinco DJ-C5 Price; £189

Stockist: 01705 662 145 Description: They may be stopping you from frying your brain, but ear pieces are a sartorial disaster. Mobile phone users are increasingly looking like extras from One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest as they stroll down the street apparently talking loudly to nobody. Could this herald the return of an out-of-date communications medium, such as CB? Legality aside (you need an amateur radio licence to live out your Blg Bird/Rubber Duck fantasies), this pocket-sized, trucker walkietalkie has it all - a sleek silver body, bright yellow buttons and a five-mile range. Now you can check in with all of your mates around the city at the same time.

Style: *** Anything else worth considering? Okay, so you really do want a mobile phone. In the midget microwave stakes, Sony's CSM-Z1 plus GSM (£80 with connection, 0990 111 999) deserves special mention, combin-The MP3 player marks the end of ing minuscule size, short voice

KEYS ARE GOOD Name: EFX Flashing Keyring Price: £8.50

Stockist: 01789 450 005 Description: This looks like a minia-

ture version of a brake light tail fin on an old Cadillac. What it is, though, is the descendant of those key fobs you whistled at when you couldn't find them amid the rubble of your bachelor pad. Only this one flashes when your mobile is ringing. Just don't clip it to your trousers. Style: ***

Anything else worth considering? If you would rather amuse yourself playing retro games, then Vivid Imagination and Nintendo have come up with a range of micro Gameboy key rings, which includes

versions of old games such as Donkey Kong and Super Mario (£8. 01702 200 660).

MEMORY JOGGER Name: Olympus D1000

Price: £300 Stockist: 0800 072 0070 Description: This simple to use

silver, slimline message recorder is the latterday equivalent of the micro cassette recorders that no selfrespecting FBI agent would once have been seen without. Instead of aroovy little cassette tapes, however, the D1000 records around 30 minutes of material on to 2MB flash memory cards.

Style: ***

Anything else worth considering? There are several other cheaper digital recorders, including the cartoon-voice, bubble-styled Sony Voice Balloon (260, 0990 111 999) - but the disadvantage is that it records only 10 minutes of material.

POCKET BLOCKBUSTERS Name: Panasonic DVD-L10EB

Price: £999

Stockist: 01344 862 444 Description: It would have to be a very big pocket, but it would be worth permanently stretching the fabric to squeeze in this silver dream machine, a portable laptop-style disc

most importantly, digital versatile discs: CD-sized discs on which are crammed whole films plus lots of gimmicky extras such as bingraphies, trailers and subtitles. The quality of the small screen is breath-

taking, but if you want to see the bigger picture, you can plug it into a larger screen when you get home. You need never be at the mercy of the inflight movie programme again.

Style: **** Anything else worth considering? When it makes it to the marketplace, Sony's DVD Discman (£700, 0990 111 which means you either have to plug it into a separate monitor or hightail it to Tokyo and buy Sony's Glasstron PLM-A55E, bizarre shades that sit directly in front of

VISION ON

Name: Sony Ruvi Price: £550 Stockist: 0990 111 999

Description: It rhymes with groovy and for a good reason. This lightweight (380g), miniature digital still camera also doubles up as a camcorder, and can record up to 30 minand runs on two AA batteries. Other than that, it is thankfully devoid of the gimmicky extras that often persuade you to buy a product that you'll rarely use. The downside is the high price of the video cartridge. Style: ****

Anything else worth considering? For those wanting to record digitally, Sony also does a more chunky, complicated camcorder, the DCR-PC1 (£1,399), which includes a handy pop-up, 5cm colour screen and a Carl Zeiss lens. Francis Ford Coppola, eat your heart out.

999) promises to be marginally more utes' worth of wedding receptions.

SHAUN PHILLIPS compact but has oo built-in screen

It has a zoom and an audio facility

DEPUTY EDITOR, ZM MAGAZINE

From left to right: Thomas Hill's Whippet 1998, from £850; Titus Davies's English

greenwood chair made of ash

detail from Rachael Howard's

'Animal Panimal' wall-hang-

vessels recycle old glass using the ancient technique of pate de verre.

Her glass looks volcanic, not dull but

also apparent in the other exhibits, including Sian Tucker's geometric

and vibrantly coloured textile hang-

ings; Nicholas Arroyave-Portela's undulating clay vessels; and Karen Bunting's monochrome jugs, plates and bowls, delicately decorated with

Obviously, as a selling exhibi-

tion, you can buy what's on display, but don't forget, if someone else has

beaten you to that perfectly poised wire chicken or you'd prefer a turkey

DIONA GREGORY

spots and stripes.

All these makers are linked by the vitality of their work. This energy is

phosphorescent, and full of light.

with an elm seat, £822.50;

ing, 130 x 200 cm, £1,200

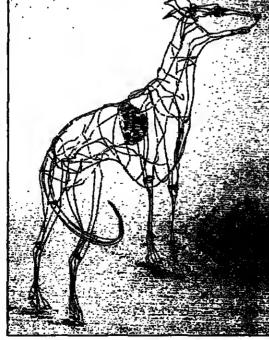
CHECK IT OUT

THE BLUECOAT CENTRE, LIVERPOOL

THE HACKNEY Contemporaries Sup show opens at the Bluecoat Display Centre in Liverpool on 9 February. There are probably more designer-makers per square mile in Hackney than anywhere else in Europe, and this is reflected in the diverse nature of the decorative arts that are displayed by the selected makers: furniture, glass, ceramics, metalwork and textiles. Like the East End of London,

Liverpool's docklands have been undergoing a mini-renaissance in recent years, losing in the process their seedy and derelict image. Artists and designers who were originally drawn into the area by its low rents have made a significant contribution to this regeneration. They've been helped in this by the

activities of the Bluecoat Display Centre, which was established to exhibit and sell contemporary work by designer-makers in a variety of mcla. (You'll find the Centre in the laridry of the former Bluecoat School, which was built in 1717 to educate the orphans of seafarers.) The exceptionally high quality of the work in this show is a reflection of what is happening in Hackney, but is also a fair indication of the Centre's reputation and ability to attract, and, more importantly, sell the work of some of the best designer-makers in Britain today. Sculptor Thomas Hill is happy to be showing at the Bluecoat Centre again: "It has an excellent client base: people seem really enthusiastic." His views are Hill's wire hirds and animals are not of the pieces.



echoed by textile designer Rachael Howard. She grew up in Merseyside before moving south in the early . Nineties. "Liverpool has become quite lively over recent years. It was always Manchester that had the interesting work, but Liverpool is bubbling upwards."

So what's on show here? Thomas

chicken wire constructions reminisceot of forms destined to be covered with papier maché, but simple, evocative outlines - yellow hens, pike, greyhounds - conjured into life from the barest of skeletons. Occasionally he adds cut and painted sheet-steel, although this in no way detracts from the lightness

Rachael Howard combines quirky screen-printed drawings with appliqued fabrics and machine embroidery to produce cushions, wall-hangings, scarves and ties. Her subjects are everyday scenes and activities which she captures with a comic vitality.

Titus Davies hews her chairs from green (unseasoned) timber - split timber.

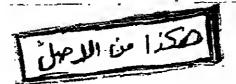


elm, ash. oak, holly or cherry using traditional green woodworking techniques. Much of the work is done by hand and, as a result, each piece is a one-off. Batch production is impossible. Initially inspired by the simplicity of Welsh stick chairs, she has now developed a way of worksimplicity of Japanese furniture. ing with the shapes revealed in the Emma O'Dare's decorative glass

Bettina Künkel also specialises in one-off pieces of furniture. She only uses British, European or North American woods for her freestanding pieces, using rarer timbers such as yew and rippled lime when they are available. Her work is influenced by art deco designs and the

ouzzard, you can always commission exactly what you want.

Hackney Contemporaries runs 9 February to 6 March, Mon-Sat 10am – 5.30pm at the Bluecoat Display Centre, Bluecoat Chambers. School Lane, Liverpool, L1 3BX, Tel-0151-709 4014. You can e-mail the gallery on crafts@bluecoat.u-net. com; or visit its website at http:// bluecoatcrafts.merseyworld.com





The new 75 could finally give Rover access to the premier league. By Gavin Green

*THE INDEPENDENT ROAD TEST

his is the rebirth of Rover, the beginning of a new era for the company." If I had £10 for every time a Bover executive had uttered those words at a press conference, I'd have enough money to mount a takeover bid for the firm.

"Crucial new model", "developed without compromise", "proof that Britain can build a world beater"... They were all there - the cliches, the rallying cries. Some things never change.

But fortunately for Rover, some things do change, and the quality of the engineering is one of them. The new 75 is an extremely competent car that deserves to sell well. It is classy, mature and genteel, and should appeal to people who want a quality car but not the Flash Harry badge that can go with it. If BMW is Versace and Audi is Hugo Boss, then the Pover 75 is Austin Reed or top-range M&S.

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In some ways, it genuinely does represent a new beginning for Rover. It is the first car developed since the BMW takeover of 1994, and is the first Rover for 20 years that is not just a rebodied, reengineered Honda. It does use some BMW kit, including much of the electronics, the manual gearbox and the turbo-diesel engine. In

other ways, it is all new. The 75 follows the plan of BMW's boss Bernd Pischetsrieder for Rover to "make cheaper Jaguars". On the whole, it feels like a smaller Jag saloon. It is a soothing car, not a sports car, a stately car, not a sensational car; an understated machine, not a head-turner.

It is aimed at the BMW 3-series and the Audi A4 (small, prestige cars, in other words) and the topend tinselled Mondeos, Passats and Vectras. Mid-size Volvos and Saabs are also a target. It is a touch shorter than the BMW 5-series, and a tad higger than a Mondeo. The styling has many traditional Rover cues - chrome strip down the side, chrome quarter-bumpers, chrome sills, chrome rear number-plate



More dash than flash: the 75 could be the 'crucial new model' Rover has been promising for years

The nose is a little Euro-generic and dull, yet the rump is more fetching, being rather Bentley Contin-

Make and model: Rover 75

(cheapest 75 model is the 1.8

Engine: 2497cc, V6, 24 valves.

Transmission: Five-speed

Performance: (Automatic)

RIVALS

maximum speed 134mph,

0-60mph in 8.9 seconds.

Audi A4 2.4 SE £24,862.

Smaller and more cramped

than the 75. Modern looks and

automatic or five-speed

2.5 V6 Connoisseur £24,025

Classic, at £18,275).

177 bbp at 6500 rpm.

manual gearbox.

surround and chrome door-handles. that that wasn't the best description. likely to be queuing up to buy it. The 75 is priced above Passats and ental R-like. A Rover PR man called Mondeos, in keeping with Rover's

a bullet-proof build quality.

Sportier, faster and smaller

Ford Mondeo 2.5 V6 Ghia

75, but performance as good.

Volkswagen Passat 1.8T

Handsome, roomy and terrific

value. Turbo engine very brisk.

ageing car soon to be replaced.

Volvo 570 2.5T £23,855. An

Yet It's tough and safe, and

recent styling upgrades give

for its lateral thinkin

it a modern feel.

20V SE £18,855. Attractive

alternative to the Rover.

Feels less luxurious.

£18,680. Much cheaper than the

BMW 323! SE £24,770.

than the 75.

SPECIFICATIONS

Nor are "tight-arsed" peopte it "tight-arsed", before accepting desire to be seen as a premium brand.

lounge-chair seats and quality carpet. The cabin is not particularly roomy: rear legroom is tight, and the rear seat has been shaped for two occupants only. The overall effect is very olde-worlde England. I'm not convinced about the oval, whitefaced 'Art Deco' instruments, which

has an air of civilised gentility. The ride is soft, and can be a bit floaty over undulating roads. Yet the handling is sharp, and the steering feels good. Four engines are on offer; two V6s (2.0 litre and 2.5), a 1.8-litre four-cylinder model (the cheapest 75), and the BMW-made turbo-diesel, which boasts a "common rail" fuel injection to improve refinement. The best two engines are the diesel and the top-range 25. The diesel is quiet and refined on long runs and amazingly frugal you should be able to average 50mpg. It is probably the best diesel engine in the world.

are harder to read than conventional

ware. Yet, on the whole, the cabin

The cabin has a deep plank of The 2.5 V6 auto is the choice, curved walnut for a dash, large though. A tuxury car needs automatic transmission, and the Japanese five-speed autobox mates well with the British-built V6. The 75 2.5 litre V6 auto is a car which Jaguar owners, wishing to downsize, could live happily with. It will also represent a strong challenge to Jaguar's new S-type V6, which hits the showroom just before the Rover.

> Deliveries of the 75 begin in June - a couple of months later than Rover had hoped. Cars won't leave the factory until BMW standards are achieved, they vow.

> I hope they're right, because the quality of the cars at the press launch wasn't good enough. Bits of trim fell off some, and many models had high levels of wind noise.

> Quite why sub-standard cars were being evaluated by the world's press is a question which Rover's bosses might like to dwell on. If they blow the Isuach of the 75 - fundamentally the best Rover in years then they really do deserve the wrath of the market.

Leaded petrol is finally being scrapped at the end of this year. By James Ruppert

Heavy metal is. on its way out

IF YOU can believe what you read. come 1 January 2000 you might just find a Boeing 747 crash-landing in your back garden, or your pop-up toaster refusing to pop.

What you may not know is that there is also a millennium fuel bug. which will see leaded petrol banned from forecourts by the end of this year. Fears about the phasing out have triggered lots of calls to the AA's Technical Advice department.

Yet in many cases, they need never bave called in the first place. For instance, owners of older model Nissan Micras driving an average of 12,000 miles a year over the last three years will have spent almost £900 extra by sticking to four-star leaded petrol when they could easily have switched to unleaded.

"It has come as a nasty shock to some drivers. Particularly those who asked a garage years ago and were advised wrongly," says Dave May, manager of AA Technical Advice. "Virtually all Japanese models have been able to run on unleaded petrot since 1978. As can older British cars with Japanese engines such as the Triumph Acclaim. Many popular models, such as some Ford Escorts, Orions and VW Polos, can switch to unleaded petrol."

So why is the British motoring public so badly informed? Leaded petrol has been banned thanks to the EU Environment Council in June 1997 and will only be available after January 2000 to "specialist interest groups" like classic car clubs.

But why do we need tead at all? Here comes the science stuff; lead in petrol acts as a protective barrier between the exhaust valve and the valve seat into which it fits. Without lead, or an alternative seat protector, "soft" valve seats can wear away causing stalling and loss of power and eventual hreakdown.

According to an RAC spokesman: "We have already come across a few rogue garages which are recommending expensive engine work on cars that obviously don't need it. Our members can phone a technical helpline which will be able to answer most enquires. In the first instance though, motorists in doubt should contact their dealer."



Classic cars may be exempt

For the majority of modern cars there isn't much of a problem, but if you do have an older "classic" there are several options. Firstly you must jour the relevant classic car club who will have all the necessary information and specialist contacts. Then you have several choices.

If you only use your classic for a few thousand miles each year, for fair weather fun, the chances are that because it has been running on leaded for so long, the engine has enough "leaded memory" to survive. Some specialists say this could be for up to 20,000 miles

At that point and if you are a high nuleage old car user you might consider installing higher specification valve seats. On a simple four-cylinder engine that will cost £100-£250, but on a complicated V& budget for several thousand.

There is a third nlternative though - additives. In countries where lead has been banned, including Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Austria, lend replacement fuel and additives are used for leadonly cars. Lead replacement fuel is not yet sold in the UK and there is no British standard for the available additives which are currently undergoing engine durability tests.

Over the counter you can huy STP Lead Substitute, which is phosphorous based, whilst Wynn's sodium-based Lubrivalve has been successfully used in the USA and New Zealand.

So how long have we got until the lead runs out? According to the UK Petroleum Industry Association: "We anticipate that sales will cease by the third quarter of 1999. We have to allow for retailers to deplete stocks and flush out their systems."

BRITAIN MAY he a motor single large car maker to call our own, but we still play a crucial role in designing some of the

world's finest cars.

Just the other day I attended presentation to launch the new Mercedes S-class, probably the world's most accomplished car. And during the speeches/video presentation/meal/handing over of press kits, it emerged that an English designer was

responsible for the looks. Steve Mattin, from Bedford, is graduate of Coventry University's excellent car design course. Designs are team efforts, of course, and Mercedes has a

vast design department with America. Yet Mattin is given the credit for the S-class's look - a great achievement, for It is one of the beautiful cars of the fin de siècle, mixing grace, modernity and Mercedes tradition.

Mattin is also responsible for the external styling of the baby A-class, probably the decade's most radical car.

It's not just in Stuttgart -Mercedes' home town - where English auto artists prosper. Anthony Grade, nepbew of the late Sir Lew, is vice-president for car design at Renault, in recent years perhaps Europe's most progressive maker in terms of

form and function and renowned

Its Scenic mini-MPV, which

Grade helped conceive, created a whole new type of car. The latest Clio was also designed under his leadership, and he has had a big hand in the latest Espace and the Laguna. Grade, in turn, reports to Patrick Le Quement who is responsible for all Renault design, including trucks. Le Quement, possibly Europe's greatest active vehicle designer, is an Anglo-Frenchman.

Volvo was never renowned for design, its cars - all square edges and busy shapes - almos anti-style objects. That was until Englishman Peter Horbury came



GAVIN GREEN

Our designers are the best - what a pity there is no large indigenous car maker left to work for

on the scene as chief designer. Hordary is responsible for the latest breed, including the S80 saloon and handsome V40 estate. He has made Volvos sexy. Audi's street style, on the

other hand, has been noted for years. Ask designers to list the best-designed cars, and most will mention Audi. Much of that good work is down to an Englishman. Chris Bird. He was responsible for the exteriors of the Audi A4 and A8 and had a hig say in the A6 and the new TT sports car. These Michelangelos-of-the-

motorway are four of the finestooking production cars ever. Admirers of Bird include Ford. The US giant, which has been in

a very acquisitive mood recently. Nineties. He also did the current has just hired him to be its director of design for small- and medium-sized cars - a huge coup for Ford. Bird, 42, is a Royal College of Art graduate who began working for Ford in 1981

before moving to Audi in 1986. There are many more talented Brits, hig on road vogue. Martin Smith was one of the key designers of the original Audi Quattro. Based in Germany, he's now responsible for the look of upcoming small- and mediumsized Opels and Vauxhalls. Geoff Lawson, Jaguar'a director of design, has the XKB sports car on his CV, and that is reckoned to

be one of the best shapes of the

MY WORST CAR

Taking a gamble on a Mini

W saloon. Ian Callum designed the drop-dead gorgeous Aston Martin DB7 and the equally enticing Aston Project Vantage concept car, whose styling is set to hit production in a few years.

The list could go on and on. They are all making the streets a more cheerful and stimulating place and improving our visual environment, just as good architects and clothes designers do. It is just a pity that there is no large UK-owned car maker that they can work for. The biggest indigenous maker we've got now is tiny TVR. And what's TVR's main strength? You guessed it - great style.

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gradually soak up the water. I would hear a huge sucking noise and the floor would disappear. I would have to stop the car on the hard shoulder, then run back 100 yards to collect the carpet, roll it up, dry it out and tack it down again.

Coronation Street, among whom was a good friend of mine, Bill Roache. The debt was £25 and it was suggested that I take a car in payment, which I did. It was a bogstandard Mini, but it had a paint scheme, which made it look like a Mini Cooper. The roof was black and the bodywork was red. These cars had subframes, which held them together, and the rear one had rotted away. The only way that I could keep it in one piece was to tack some carpet down at the back. On my way into Manchester on the M62 when it rained, which happened quite often, the carpet would

proved to be very useful.

This was my first car when I started in



With a paint job, the Mini could rise above its humble status

park it around the corner from my clients' offices. Not only was it awful to look at, this Mini was always breaking down. Even so, I still loved it because it helped me do a job and, to be perfectly honest, however

such an embarrassing sight that I had to always better than the cash I would have won in that poker game.

Eddie Shah chairs the Messenger Leisure Group, which owns the Essez, Norfolk and Suffolk Golf and Country newspapers selling advertising. It was many times it broke down, that Mini was Chubs. He spoke to James Ruppert

Buyers go in for old not new

Purchasers looking for a home with an old-fashioned period feel won't settle for any imitations. By **Penny Jackson**

es, and express horror at the thought of huying a new home, are often among the first to say that they would love to build from scratch: "Give us a site and we'll show how we would really like to live." But take them to the homes on offer now and they will run a mile, back to the last century Are they prejudiced beyond hope or simply not being given what they

'You have to create an illusion of old money – of something that's been lived in'

want? A recent survey by the

Popular Housing Forum concludes that the new homes market in the UK is a niche operation appealing to a small sector of the population. Some 72 per cent have not bought, or would not consider huying, new homes, and tend to think of hem as boxy, cramped and homooous. While the vast majority of those who took part in the survey opted for a traditional façade, there was a strong demand for a re-think

about the way we live. All good developers will spend

t is an irony that many time and money on research, hut it people who live in old hous- can be rather like preaching to the converted. If they focus just on their pool of customers, they will be hearing from only 28 per cent of the home-owning population. "They need to study the occupiers

who don't usually buy new homes," says Yolande Barnes, of F P D Savills Research. "These buyers have to be seduced. It is no good just matching the second-hand market, it has to be exceeded."

In leafy Wandsworth, in southwest London, a house that sells for £1m no longer gives cause for com-ment. Buyers have moved southwards in search of space they can afford, and for a choice of good schools. Generally, this means Victorian or Edwardian, four or five bedrooms, two or three bathrooms, a garden and close to the common.

So a plot in a good street is a rare opportunity to woo buyers away from the old. Thirlstone Homes did their homework. Two red-brick, Edwardian-style, semi-detached houses mirror in almost every respect their neighbours in Lyford Road, with the extra advantage of off-street parking. The high ceilings de-molish the usual criticism of feeling like being cramped.

The drawing room is comfortably large and the kitchen runs into a light and sunny family room. At the top of the house, under the eaves, is a study and studio bedroom with



Lyford Villas, an example of a new home that tries hard to overcome buyers' prejudices

bathroom. As a package, these are all features that local buyers would have on their list. But just as it seems to be there, it stumbles and falls.

The "executive home" touch is the spoiler. A top-to-toe tiled bathroom and mirrored bedroom cupboards are more hotel than home. And these are buyers who are likely to want a coal fire, not look-alike gas. They have wet labradors and children with muddy boots but nowhere to put either. It is not that these houses won't sell well, but that they are unlikely to break through the old/ new barrier.

"Everything south of the river

gets stamped with the Surrey mark," says Jonathan Seal, of Hamptons International, "London buyers are specialised, and know from experience exactly what they like. They are prepared to pay for houses with good hallways, high ceiling, French windows, wooden sash windows, larders, large south-facing rooms. They don't mind much about

formal dining rooms or garages. "There is no guarantee that the developer you are advising will instruct you in the end. That's the name of the game. It is tempting for some to tell a developer what he

Often the advice can be simple. Margaret McKenna, of John D Wood's Battersea office, has suggested that housebuilders employ a local interior designer, to avoid the inevitable clash of style that can put off buyers attracted to the area.

A great deal of money can be wasted on putting things on floors and walls that typical purchasers don't like. And if buyers find properties overpriced and overrated, it is often because they act on the valnation, but not the specifications. "We might have to say that we can't now sell their property for £500,000 because they haven't done anything

we suggested," says John Collard, of Robert Holmes in Wimbledon.

It is not as though buyers in the second-hand market are difficult to read. Estate agents' particulars, and glossy style magazines, give a blueprint at a glance. "You have to create an illusion of old money, of something that has been lived in," says Yolande Barnes. "The book-shelves either side of the fireplace, the fire surround, the sofas facing each other. You see it everywhere. They want period style without the period inconvenience, and not just a complete pastiche.

"Staircases can be wider, and

the plumbing and wiring should make for easy living. But new London houses are more difficult to get right than flats. The one thing that really doesn't work is brand name

At Lyford Villas there is a stone laque between the two front doors. It reads: "Thirlstone Homes 1998." Surely the last thing any buyers spending more than £800,000 want is to be seen advertising a product, wever discreetly.

Lyford Road Villas, priced from £875,000 through agents Robert Trindle (0181-767 2222)

2,000, a space odyssey: where to find it, how much to pay

Forget the Dome – rent your own millennium party space, but be prepared to pay the price. By Mary Wilson

NOW WE are well into 1999, people are ghinking seriously about what they are fing to do to celebrate the passing of the millennium. A good number of families are considering renting a property for the New Year week to entertain their friends and guests.

In response, house owners are starting to put up their homes up for rental for just that week, encouraged by the lure of mega rents, possibly up to five times the normal going rate.

Suzanne Coker, who lives with her husband, James, in Barton-on-the-Heath in the Cotswolds, has a large house with an adjoining cottage which she is just starting to let out. "We had. considered inviting a few friends up for the millennium weekend and putting them up in the cottage. But we have been told by local rental agents that we could get a very good return and that is just too tempting."

The cottage, which sleeps five, with a large dining room, sitting room and wood-burning stove, is usually let

'Many owners prefer to let to families, as they are less likely to celebrate with a bang'

for £350 to £400 a week, hut with the possibility of earning at least £800 for that one week, they hope to take a short, but extravagant, holiday later in the year. "We will just stay with friends," says Suzanne.

Although the Cokers are looking at doubling their rent, larger properties are being let for up to five times the norm. Warren de Longe of Blandings, the country-house holiday-rental agent, which is offering a number of properties for the millennium, says: Most of the larger houses are going to 1 oups of individuals or couples wisting to celebrate the event, rather

"While these groups are often willing to spend greater sums of money, many of our owners prefer families, as they are less likely to bring in the mil-lennium with a 'bang'."

The most expensive property the company is offering for the New Year week is Hatton Castle, near Turriff, Aberdeenshire. This has eight bedroom suites, and will cost £55,000 per week, excluding staff. For a little bit less, you could take Braxted Park in Witham,



Suzanne Coker hopes her Cotswold cottage will subsidise a dream holiday

taken 50 enquiries."

Essex which is a nine-bedroom coun-

near Bath, Somerset & Avon, a 14th-

century property, which accommo-

dates 16, for £40,000 or, Widecombe

Manor in Devon, a 19th-century manor

house sleeping 14, for £15,000 - or just

Leon Betchley of Countrywide

over £1,000 a week per person.

Then there is St Catherine's Court

try house, at £30,000 for the week.

John Lawrence

Residential Lettings covers the south coast of England. He says: "I am getable property. He already has a few houses on his books in the Isle of ting an awful lot of enquiries from the Home Counties and London, espe-Wight, and these include Cove Cottage, cially from large families or parties. a three-bedroom cottage at Ventnor; Within the last two weeks we have The Barn, a four-bedroom house at Whitwell, and Stoneplace Cottage He reckons that a four-bedroomed with three bedrooms at Ventnor. They property usually let out for £450 to £500 will all be available for around £800. Many of the properties already a week could easily command £1,500

available for renting over the New Year are in Scotland. Robert Rattray of Finlayson Hughes of Perth, which has published a special millennium brochure, says: "We have been inundated with enquiries for large and exclusive venues.

Several of the 16 properties are already booked, and of those still available you could take Burnknowe at Lochgoilhead, Argyll, sleeping eight for £5,000 a week, Denfield Farmhouse in Trinity Gask, Perthshire, for £5,500, or Lochiehead at Auchtermuchty, Fife. sleeping 14, plus four in a cottage, for

£12,500 a week. Knight Frank's Edinburgh office has also been asked by some of its clients to find tenants over the millennium week. Properties up for grabs range from stately homes to castle and shooting lodges. "Some are fully staffed, others are self-catering farmhouses, and packages are being tailored to meet people's individual requirements wherever possible,"

says Colin Strang Steel. One property available is Strathtyrum at St Andrews, Fife. Twelve people staying here would have use of the drawing room, library, billiard room and dining room, and the £30,000 for seven nights includes all meals and drink.

Also in Scotland, F D D Savills has several properties available for that week. On the Airlie Estate, for example, Cortachy Castle, which sleeps at least 20 people, is available for £24,000 for four days; and Wellhank Cottage which sleeps six to eight people, £2,000 for the week.

You should, of course, insure your home while it is rented out over the millennium week. A standard buildings and contents insurance will not cover the property if it is let and anything un-toward occurs, and it is unlikely that a high street or telephone insurance company would countenance such an extra liability.

Countrywide say it is encouraging people to take a very much larger deposit than usual - £300-£400, as opposed to £50-£100 - to cover any damage. And it is offering an insurance package covering all liabilities, which will cost around £150-£200, depending on what has to be covered.

Suzanne Coker, 01608 674603; Blandings, 01223 293444; Finlayson Hughes, 01738 451111; Countrywide Residential Lettings, 01983 821111; Knight Frank, 0131-225 8171; F P D Savills, 01356 628600

STEPPING STONES



East (Dulwich) is Eden for Ann Ball Mark Chilvers

SINCE 1980 Ann Ball and her partner Norm have bought four south London properties. They now live in a three-storey Victorian house in East Dulwich.

It was in 1985 when, at the age of 30 and in a stable joh as a housing association director, Ann decided "to get into the house-owning democracy

Her first flat was an impulse buy, a one-bed conversion carved from the hall floor of a house in Brockley for £24,500: "It had the most amazing huge rooms looking on to an enormous garden."

But the prospect of external renovations was worrying: "It was a big house and the other flats were mostly rented so I knew that one day I could get saddled with a large bill." In 1987 Ann, a lover of Victoriana, sold for £45,000 and bought a freehold property in

Deptford's Friendly Street. The two-bedroom, Victorian cottage had a walled garden which, although "a mess", was lovingly restored by Ann, who created raised beds and a patio. She enjoyed the house and garden but not the noise from the husy road.

In 1989, having met Norm, she decided to rent out her house and move into a two-bedroom flat in Clapham which Norm had hought for £25,000 in 1980. The rental was not a total success: "The first tenants were fine but the second lot junked it. When they left I found dirty washingup and pans everywhere with beans stuck to them."

Prices had bottomed out, but in 1991 Ann sold at the purchase price and, having had a daughter. Alice, decided to buy a family home. She and Norm paid off the Clapham flat's mortgage and rented it out but could not find an affordable house nearby.

East Dulwich, a few miles away, offered more for money and prompted another of Ann's impulses. She remembers saying: "I have to have this... It was fabulous, you could just see the potential." It cost £117,000 in 1992, and features such as a butler sink and original brass tans in the bathroom help understand the instant appeal. The couple have carried out improvements such as resiting the kitchen and adding a conservatory - and while Norm will "never move to another house where he'll have to do all this work", it is hard to see why they would ever want to.

GINETTA VEDRICKAS Those moves in brief...

1980 – two-bedroom flat for £25,000, now worth £180,000. 1985 - one bedroom flat for £24,500, sold for £45,000, 1987 - £69,995 house, sold for same in 1991. 1992 - three-storey house for £117,000, now worth £200,000.

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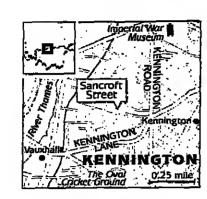
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HOT SPOT

KENNINGTON, SOUTH LONDON

Nice and sleazy does it



garden squares at relatively low prices, say the estate agents. Dodgy neighbour-hood, says a jockette of our acquaintance who plays one-eyed hockey in the area. Her equipment bag attracts the attention of passers-by, so she keeps one eye on the ball and her other

eye on her belongings.
High sleaze and high prices generally don't mix, but a large Victorian nr Genrgian house in a pleasant square sells in the vicinity of £400,000. A council flat can cost a tenth as much.

This is Kennington, an area with gorgeousness thanks to the Duchy of Cornwall Estate, and with grimness courtesy of Adolf Hitler. Not coincidentally, Parliament is just across

Over the centuries, the City attracted London's commercial activity, and Westminster attracted royalty. Until a few years ago, the Duchy of Cornwall (in effect, the Prince of Wales) owned hundreds of houses on 45 acres in Kennington, including the nearby Oval cricket ground. Most of these, many of which are handsome Regency and neo-Regency gardensquare terraces, have now been sold. primarily to housing associations.

MPs have always had Kennington in their sites hecause of its proximity to Parliament. Luftwaffe pilots had Parliament literally in their sights, but they missed their target far more often than they hit it, and many of their miscues found Kennington, thereby



Kennington's handsome Georgian housing has always been a lure for politicians due to the area's proximity to Parliament

council construction.

A price tag of £400,000 is good value, says Johnny Male of Daniel Cobb estate agents, in that "equivalent properties in Clapham and on the other side of the river sell for twice the price, or even more." Some threebedroom houses in the area sell for less than £200,000, and a converted

has yielded large bright flats which have vaulted ceilings.

Few shops and good schools are the area's weak points, although the former is palpably improving. "The area has changed dramatically in the last 10 to 15 years. Kennington used to be virtually all rented," says Mr Male. "Now, with some Duchy of Cornwall

are owner-occupied. And with that, shops are coming in."

Kennington Park Road, Kennington Lane and Kennington Road intersect to form a small triangle. Prime Kennington is within the three sides and on its borders (such as Denny, Sancroft, and Courtenay Streets).

The council estates dotted through

preparing the ground for post-war Victorian school on Kennington Road properties for sale, many more homes out the area vary in age and architecture but still tend to be predominantly council tenanted. As one local agent notes: "Your next-door neighbour can move out and be replaced by the neighbours from hell." These properties appeal to investors and also to owner-occupiers on extremely limited budgets.

ROBERT LIEBMAN

THE LOW-DOWN

Prices: Three-storey early-Victorian houses can sell for as little as £150,000-£160,000 but, says Johnny Male of Cobb estate agents, in the squares and nice pockets, houses prices are really creeping toward £300,000". A decent two-bedroom flat costs about £135.000.

agents sells one-bedroom ex-council flats for less than £50,000, and twoand three-bedroom flats for not much more. They also sell inexpensive split-level maisonettes and shop-flat or live/work possibilities.

Transport: If you are anywhere in Bottom Fishing: Alan Fisher estate lic transport. Kennington station is one of several Chaplin family Area, which (says a local estate 1004; Daniel Cobb 0171-735 9510

(Northern Line, zone 2) is on Kennington Park Road, just down from 39 Methley Street (through Daniel Elephant and Castle (Bakerloo and Northern Lines, zone 1). Vauxhall Station is nearby, and several bus Terrace, which was destroyed during

Ministry of Funny Walks: A plaque marks the house at 287 Kennington

residences in Kennington, including Cobb for £299,950, also apparently with a Chaplin plaque) and 3 Pownall

Kennington property particulars Kennington, you are near good pub-Road where Charlie Chaplin lived. It boast of being within the Division Bell

agent) means 20 minutes by horse and cart or (says Our Woman in Parliament) eight minutes by foot Council Tax: Kennington falls between two stools: Lambeth exacts A Clarion Call for Clarity: Some Southwark insists on £524 and £1,573 respectively.

Estate Agents: Alan Fraser 0171-587

THREE TO VIEW

HOUSES WITH A PAST



IN A previous life, this six-bedroom house in three quarters of an acre would have housed a parson and his large, quite possibly impecunious family. Now the Old Parsonage in Fleckney, near Market Harborough, in Leicestershire, is a private home. It has a conservatory reached via French doors from the music room, lounge and dining rooms with period fireplaces and a family-sized kitchen with fitted oven and hob. A solid-fuel Aga may be hought separately. The ground floor has a boot room, study, workshop and studin with a gallery. The grounds boast a herb garden, greenhouse and paddock £235,000, details from Frank Innes (01858 410311).



A TABLET on the front of The Old School commemorates its opening as the village school in South Warnborough, Hampshire. The hnuse was originally built for the poor children of the parish, aged seven and above, and finally closed in 1952. With its Grade II listing, it is now a three-bedroom home (two of the bedrooms are on the ground floor) with a 19ft drawing room, a study, a dining room and a large kitchen. There is a mezzanine gallery and a master bedroom with en suite facilities on the first floor. The gardens are old and traditional and include a double garage, £275,000 through Hill & Morrison, telephone 01256 702892 for details.



IT HAS been a long time since the forge rang to the sound of the hammer and anvil, as it is now used for storage and garaging, with a vehicle inspection pit. The outbuilding comes with the house, known as The Forge, which is a three-bedroom dwelling with more than an acre and a half of gardens. Built in the early 19th century and Grade II listed, It is the first time that the building has been sold on the open market apart from the Highelere Estate, which is five miles from Newbury, in Berkshire. It has a sitting room with open fireplace, and a large, spacious kitchen with a beamed ceiling. The guide price is £290,000. Details are available from Strutt & Parker (01635 521707).

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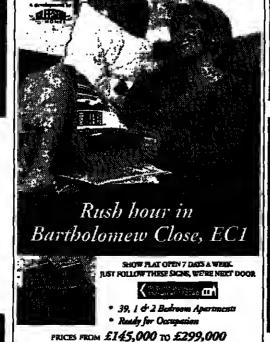
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